Redfern II-pg. 8

Prostitution-pg. 5

A MAGAZINE FOR COLUMBIA & SOUTH CAROLINA 25¢

osceola

Number six *September 26, 1972*

Edgar Brown (left) is gone, and Sol Blatt's days of power are numbered. Rex Carter, heir apparent, speaks on page three.

Faulty reception on local cable

by John Norton

The story of current cable TV operations in Richland County is an extremely complex one, frought with legal battles, political intrigue, and questionable public service on the part of at least one Richland County official---Richland County Councilman Herbert Louthian.

The story, which will involve political figures like former Governor Robert McNair, state Rep. Richard L. Sullivan, County Supervisor Laney C. Talbert and others, is perhaps approached best from an historical perspective.

Approximately two years ago, Louthian became interested in the possibilities of setting up a cable television operation in Richland County. He either approached or was approached by Athena Communications of New York, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf-Western Industries, one of the nation's largest owners of cable television operations and one of the largest corporations in the country, with holdings like Paramount Pictures, Consolidated Cigar Corporation, and 75 other companies. Apparently, Gulf-Western agreed to back Louthian and his business partners, who have frequently referred to Athena Communications as being involved in their company since that time.

At some point during these early stages, Louthian and his two business partners, Dr. Ralph McCollough, assistant dean of the USC law School, and William F. Taylor, an associate of the Calhoun Life Insurance Company and manager of Computer Management Services, Inc., chartered Palmetto Cablevision, Incorporated.

The partners began quietly going about the process of acquiring from S.C. Electric and Gas and Southern Bell the utility pole right-of-ways necessary in order to string the cable system's coaxial cables. While it is difficult to determine exactly when Palmetto Cablevision began the actual physical construction of the system, the stringing and laying of wires apparently began prior to a Southern Bell request for information from County Council in November of 1971. Southern Bell asked Council if a franchise or permit was required for the installation of CATV cable, presumably in response to Louthian's request for right-of-way. Council replied neither was needed. Such a request would have obviously aroused Council's curiosity. But County Attorney Frank Sloan told Osceola that county officials (other than Louthian, of course) first became aware of the cable operation when county road workers reported men digging up roads and stringing wireson utility poles--so apparently Palmetto either had Southern Bell's tentative approval or simply went ahead and began construction anyway. Robert Long, manager of Gulf-Western's operations in Dillon and Mullins, supervised the installation of the cable, and later, the construction of Palmetto's community antenna in North Columbia.

Several facts here should be emphasized. For some reason, County Council at this point passed over an opportunity to assert the county's franchising authority--a fact which later adadversely affected their suit to stop Palmetto's operations. Secondly, it can already be seen that Palmetto is going ahead with construction as quickly as possible--a fact which will mean more later in this story. And finally, it seems quite obvious that Louthian had kept quiet about the cable enterprise insofar as other county officials were concerned, since they claim to have received the information second-hand.

When Southern Bell's request for information came before Council, it is ob-

Continued on page 6

YOU CAN REALLY LIVE IN A McFADDIN PARKER

CUSTOM WATERBED!

Arcade Mall

1332 Main/Columbia

The changes will come slow

by Jim Turner

Good politicians are like good actors. If they're in good form, they can exact from their audience a "willful suspension of disbelief."

They can make you forget they are just acting.

Rex L. Carter, Speaker "Pro Tempore" in the S.C. House of Representatives, is a good politician. He has been "Mr. Greenville County" in the lower chamber for 20 years.

If he wins re-election at home, he is the odds-on favorite to succeed Speaker Solomon Blatt when the Barnwell king-pen retires in mid-1973.

Politics, we are told, is the art of compromise, the art of what is possible. The way Rex Carter managed to get in line to ~~succes~~ Blatt is a good example of his artistry.

Carter announced his intention to run against Blatt next January, when the House reorganizes after the elections. Behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing ensued, and when the dust settled Blatt had agreed to step down "before next June" and Carter had agreed not to run against him in January. Which means Blatt gets to make the committee assignments one more time.

For at least the past 1,000 years, Speaker Blatt has wielded that appointive power to shower favor on his minions and cast his detractors into outer darkness.

Two other House members may run against Carter. Jay Baggett of McCormick has announced his candidacy and Harold Brezeale of Pickens is an unannounced seeker of the job.

But Rex Carter seems to have it sewed up. He already sounds like a king. Perhaps unconsciously, he slipped into "When WE announced OUR intention to seek the Speakership...." during the course of my interview with him.

Carter feels that this year's General Assembly has some accomplishments worth bragging on, and expects "more of the same" when the new legislature convenes.

He lists teacher and state employee pay hikes, ecology, constitutional revisions (which will be voted on by the people in November), an insurance program for teachers and state employes and kindergarten expansions and capital improvements for colleges among this past session's accomplishments.

Another bill made "adequate educational opportunity" for handicapped children mandatory, and provided $800,000 to get things started.

About 15 per cent of the state's school-aged children have special disabilities, but only five per cent were getting state-supported education last year.

In addition to the $600 pay raise for teachers and other employees of the state, Carter estimates that the Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurance program adds another $250 to $300 per year to their real income. He called it "the best coverable in the country."

The lawmakers appropriated $18 million to the state's colleges and universities for capital improvements (buildings).

Another $25 million went for self-liquidating "environmental protection bonds," Carter noted. This money will help the state's cities and counties provide the "matching" funds when federal money is available for poliution treatment facilities.

Also under ecological accomplishments, he recalled that the legislature stopped the timber cutting in the Santee swamp.

"We felt that the environmental impact of the logging far outweighed the possible profit from selling the lumber," he said.

Twice during the interview, Carter was interrupted by the telephone. He has a way of replying to the caller without an eavesdropper being able to tell what he's talking about. His voice gets quiet and soft ("OK, good buddy, we'll see to it."). And he seems to forget that the caller is not in the room; he sometimes nods at the receiver without giving an audible "yes."

Chief among revisions to South Carolina's--shall we say "venerable"?--constitution, Carter listed judicial reform.

If the new article is passed in November's referendum, circuit judges' schedules will be set by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, instead of by the legislature.

This means that if one judicial circuit gets a backlog of court cases while another circuit finishes early, the Chief Justice could assign a second judge to the circuit that was running behind schedule.

For the future, Carter is confident that the state's industrial growth will keep the state from needing a tax increase.

"We had $473 million in new investments and expansions in existing industries during the past year," he noted. "This will provide our economic base for continuing our present governmental services without having to raise taxes."

Good news, for voters and candidates alike, in an election year.

The legislature needs "working tools" to conduct its business, the apparent future Speaker believes.

"Up until this year, representatives had no stenographers at all. No one to write a letter for them, no one to answer mail they get in Columbia."

The House now has two secretaries for such work, and Carter thinks there should be more of them in the future.

Also, $150,000 has been allocated for office space for House members.

"The present situation is ridiculous," he said. If a constituent comes to see his representative, they have to talk out in the State House lobby or off in a corner somewhere, with almost no privacy.

Carter would not hazard an on-the-record guess as to how the Presidential election will affect local races. But he noted that at least half of all House Democrats are still running without GOP opposition, so a Nixon sweep of the state would not affect the Democrats' working majority at the state level.

Speaker Blatt has been for many years the de-facto "prime minister" of South Carolina. Whenever an upstart governor has gotten the idea that "chief executive" means the governor runs things, Blatt has been quick to set things straight. Does Carter think the governor should have more power?

"I think perhaps there should be a closer working relationship between the governor and the legislative branch in the future," he "answered."

Historically, local Democrats have "run their own race" and not supported Democratic candidates for President, and this year will be no exception, at least in Greenville County.

Carter justifies this by noting that "We have no control over what the national party does. They give us no money, no staff, no help of any kind, so why should we give it to them?" He noted that Democrats have won state and local elections during GOP Presidential landslides in South Carolina.

With State Sen. Edgar Brown's retirement and Blatt's pending abdication, it would seem the "torch is being passed" to younger men. Maybe so, in the House. But Brown's apparent successor, Marion Gressette is well into his 70s and Spot Mozingo and Rembert Dennis, next in line in the seniority system, are not much younger.

So change in the upper house will probably be a slow in coming as it has been in years past.

Subscribe.

Osceola
P.O. Box 5033
Columbia, S.C.

Name _____

Street or box number _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

☐ $5 for one year ☐ $8.50 for two years

FREE

Bring This Ad
Buy 89c
Fish and Chips
and
Get One Free

Chappy's AUTHENTIC ENGLISH fish&chips

Cedric's authentic english FISH & CHIPS

Good at any of six locations

Main and Sunset
1306 Charleston Hwy
Devine Street at K-Mart
1935 Broad River R
Hwy No. 1 and Parklane
(Dentsville)
Two Notch & Beltline

7 DAYS ONLY — September 3rd-9th

TWI-LITE LOUNGE

1928 ROSEWOOD DR.
254-8089

unescorted coeds welcomed...

MARGO'S

Discount Center

- PORTABLE TELEVISIONS by PANASONIC and SHARP
- PORTABLE CASSETT RECORDERS (perfect for class)
- HOT POTS and PERCOLATORS and STEAM IRONS
- TYPEWRITERS by ROYAL AND REMINGTON
- DIGITAL CLOCK RADIOS-AM and FM
- HIGH INTENSITY LAMPS (glare free)
- AM-FM TABLE MODEL RADIOS

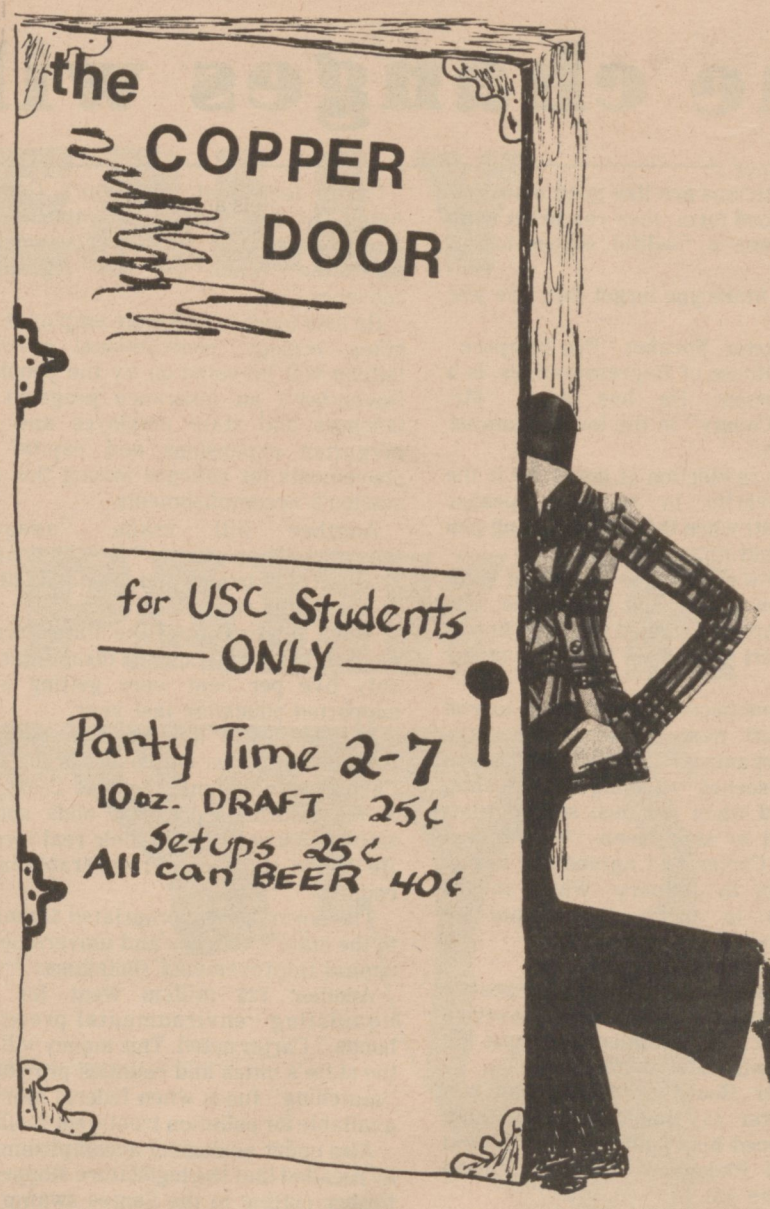
Stereo

cassettes · 8-tracks · recorders

car stereos - multi - band - radios

* Pioneer * Panasonic * Sharp

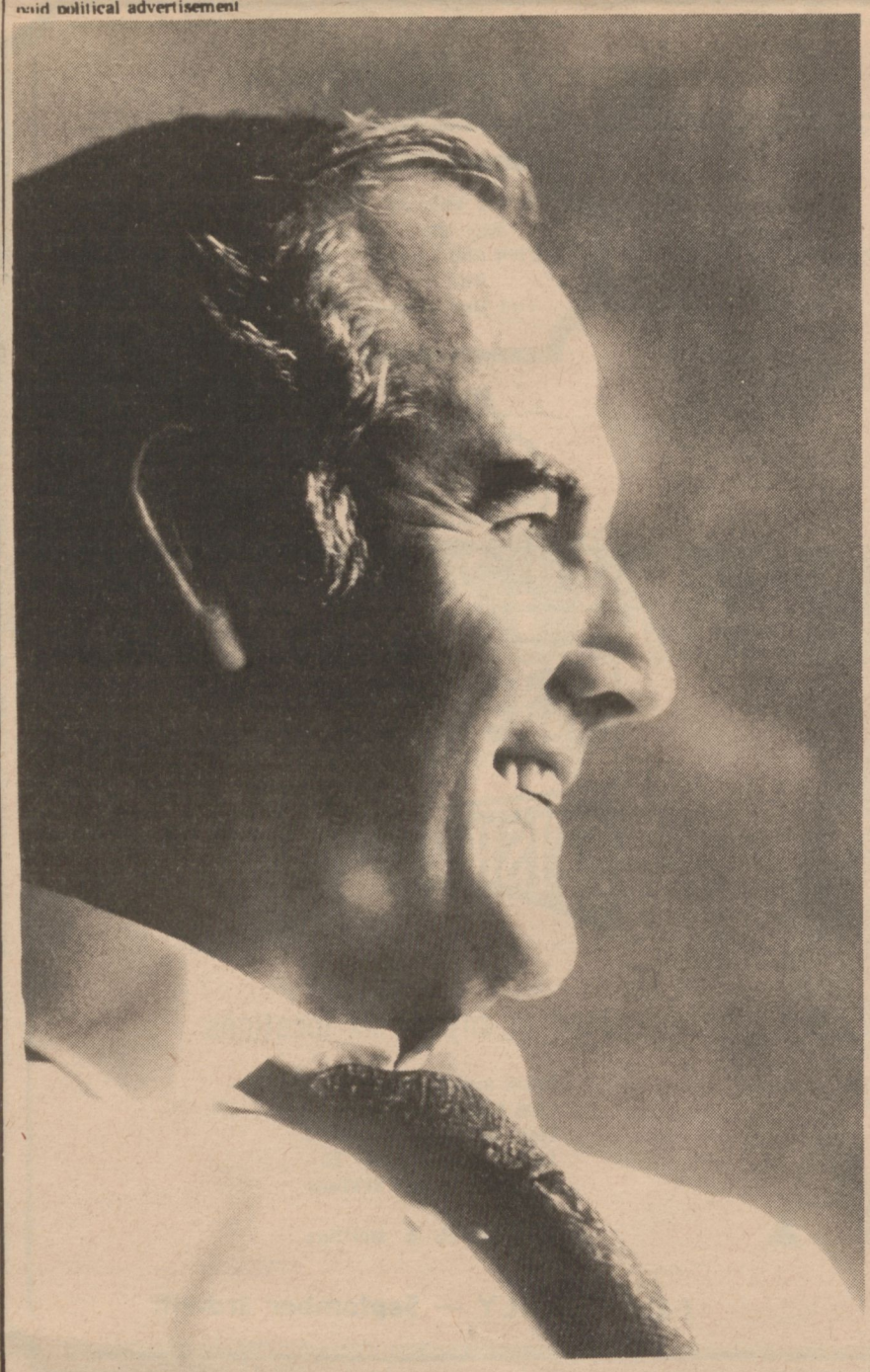
1526 Main St. ... Across From Davisons



2701 ROSEWOOD DR.

POSSESSION and CONSUMPTION PERMIT NO. 392

paid political advertisement



McGovern-Shriver '72

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

...we will call America home to the ideals that nourished us from the very beginning--

From secrecy and deception in high places; come home, America. From military spending so wasteful that we can end our inflation; come home America. From the entrenchment of special privileges and tax favoritism, from the waste of idle lands to the joy of useful labor; from the prejudice based on race and sex; from the loneliness of the aging poor and the despair of the neglected sick--come home, America. Come home to the affirmation that we have a dream; come home to the conviction that we can move our country forward.

And now is the time to meet that challange.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

McGovern-Shriver State Headquarters

1920 Assembly Street **P.O. Box 11730**

Columbia, S.C. 29211 **254-7614**

☐ I would like to volunteer for the election campaign of McGovern-Shriver.

☐ I am enclosing $.....as my contribution to the McGovern-Shriver campaign.

*Name*_____

*Address*_____

*City*_____

*State*_____ *Zip*_____

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

paid political advertisement

Prostitution: $25.76

by Richard Harpootlian

"It'll cost ya twenty dollars for the whore and five seventy-six for the room."

The old man at the desk had thrown up his hands and said he couldn't help me "get a piece of ass," but he went on to suggest I talk to the bell boy.

The bell boy gave me the information, no equivocating-just the straight facts.

This scene took place last week in a downtown Columbia hotel. The frequency of these business transactions and the number of establishments participating in them is anyone's guess, but an educated guess was called for, so Osceola arranged to interview a Columbia call girl to get an accurate view of the volume of sex traffic in the area.

The girl proved not only to be a source for information on prostitution in Columbia but she was also very well acquainted with heroin traffic in the area. Up until several months ago she was a junkie-a heroin addict-who "turned tricks" and sold heroin to support her habit.

In a home of a friend Marge revealed what she had learned in over a year of turning tricks and selling dope in Columbia. Marge is around twenty and wears faded blue jeans and T-shirt. She looks like the girl next door.

She came to the Columbia area to live with a relative after tiring of living with her father in another state. She wasn't in Columbia long before she was introduced to the pleasures of shooting up smack and she soon developed an expensive appetite. For a pretty girl with no real marketable skills, money could be obtained in only a few ways.

Marge didn't walk the streets like most of the prostitutes in Columbia, however. She worked out of a house with several other girls who had their tricks lined up by their pimp. Although Marge and most of the other girls in the house were white, she claimed her pimp and every other pimp in town is black.

According to Marge, streetwalkers, whc are predominately black, congregate in two areas in Columbia. One area is the block of Hardin Street between Taylor and Hampton and the other is along Gervais Street between Hardin and Millwood.

"Prices vary from month to month and with the time of the month," she said. "When soldiers get paid or when a convention like the Shriners is in town the prices go up."

Soldiers, Marge indicated, account for the greatest percentage of the streetwalkers' business and oftentimes get the "rawest deal." While a businessman can get a whole evening of pleasure for $60 to $100, soldiers are allowed ten minutes for $30 to $40. Marge explained that when prostitutes are performing with a soldier many of them don't even bother to fully undress. She said that if a soldier doesn't get his money's worth in ten minutes, it's was "T.S."

The refusal to undress apparently comes from the prostitutes's desire to do a volume business and Marge claims seeing one streetwalker earn $400 in one night from nine to midnight on one Army payday.

With businessmen, the situation is substantially different. Taxi cab drivers or bell boys at hotels and motels in the area will make connections for a small tip. They call the pimp who sends the girl over to the motel room. Marge named virtually every hotel and motel in downtown Columbia as fertile fields for herself and her friends.

She also named a very respectable bar near the state capitol as a place she frequented to pick up jobs. She made such trips only on occasions when she needed money for a fix and didn't see any other available tricks

Although Marge wouldn't let me tape all of the interview, the following is part of the conversation she allowed us to commit to tape.

OS: Do, most soldiers meet prostitutes on the street or through the hotel downtown?

Marge: A lot of the chicks go out to the fort and just ride around and pick up tricks.

OS: When soldiers come into town on payday do most prostitutes wait for them on "the block?"

Marge: Taxi drivers help out a lot, too.

OS: Taxi drivers?

Marge: Yea, like when a guy gets into town and wants to get laid he doesn't know where to go right off, but the taxi drivers go out to the airport and pick up guys coming in off the plane, businessmen and all; take them to the hotels and...well...everyone who has tricked before knows how, its done—almost alike in every town.

OS: To change the subject somewhat--you used heroin and turned tricks to support your habit. Do you think the junk traffic is tied to prostitution?

Marge: The guy that called himself my pimp didn't like me to do dope. Very few of the pimps like for the girls to even smoke (marijuana) because they can't work when they're high. If the pimp even suspected they were doing junk he would beat them. The pimps won't do junk, maybe a little coke (Cocaine), but no junk.

OS: So you think there's no connection between drugs and prostitution? You must realize the public has an image that where there is prostitution you'll find all other kinds of vice.

Marge: There is some gambling, but no real drug traffic.

OS: Do you think there is any organization behind the drugs, prostitution or gambling?

Marge: Organization?

OS: Yeah, like the Mafia for instance.

Marge: (several moments of intense giggling) No, man.

The call girl went on to describe the relationship between police and Columbia's prostitution establishment as virtually nonexistent in her opinion.

OS: Are the police paid off to keep their eyes closed when hookers are trying to solicit on the street?

Marge: No I don't think the pigs are paid off because there's no reason to pay them off. The fine for loafing and loitering is not that much and I know five or six chicks who have been up to city jail for that, but that is all they could charge them with, because they have no evidence of prostitution.

OS: You mean unless a plainclothes cop does a trick with a chick.

Marge: Yea and I've never heard of that happening.

One of Marge's friends who sat in on the interview said he thinks the police in Columbia regard prostitution much the same as police in other parts of the state regard sales of liquor by the drink. It's good for convention and tourist trade and has the added advantage of keeping soldiers out of the "hometown pants."

Local law enforcement officials have occasionally in the past cracked down on what they and the law refer to as "bawdy houses. "In December of 1970 police raided such a house on Shakespeare Road and not only closed it down, but also confiscated a list of over 700 names of patrons of the house.

Publicity surrounding the list flourished for a few weeks and then gradually died out. In a conversation with Solicitor John Foard, Osceola learned the solicitor still has the list "locked up in the safe" but he assured us it would never be used for any criminal prosecution.

"Those names don't necessarily mean those people were there. We find frequently that people who go to a place like that will use someone else's name, and anyway the list couldn't be used as legal evidence in court," the Solicitor explained.

Marge expressed a distaste for all police which probably stems from her involvement with heroin traffic in the area. In an effort to raise money to help support her drug habit, she and a friend would drive to New York regularly and buy ounces of the opiate for $800. Upon returning to the Columbia area they would sell the ounces for $2000 each.

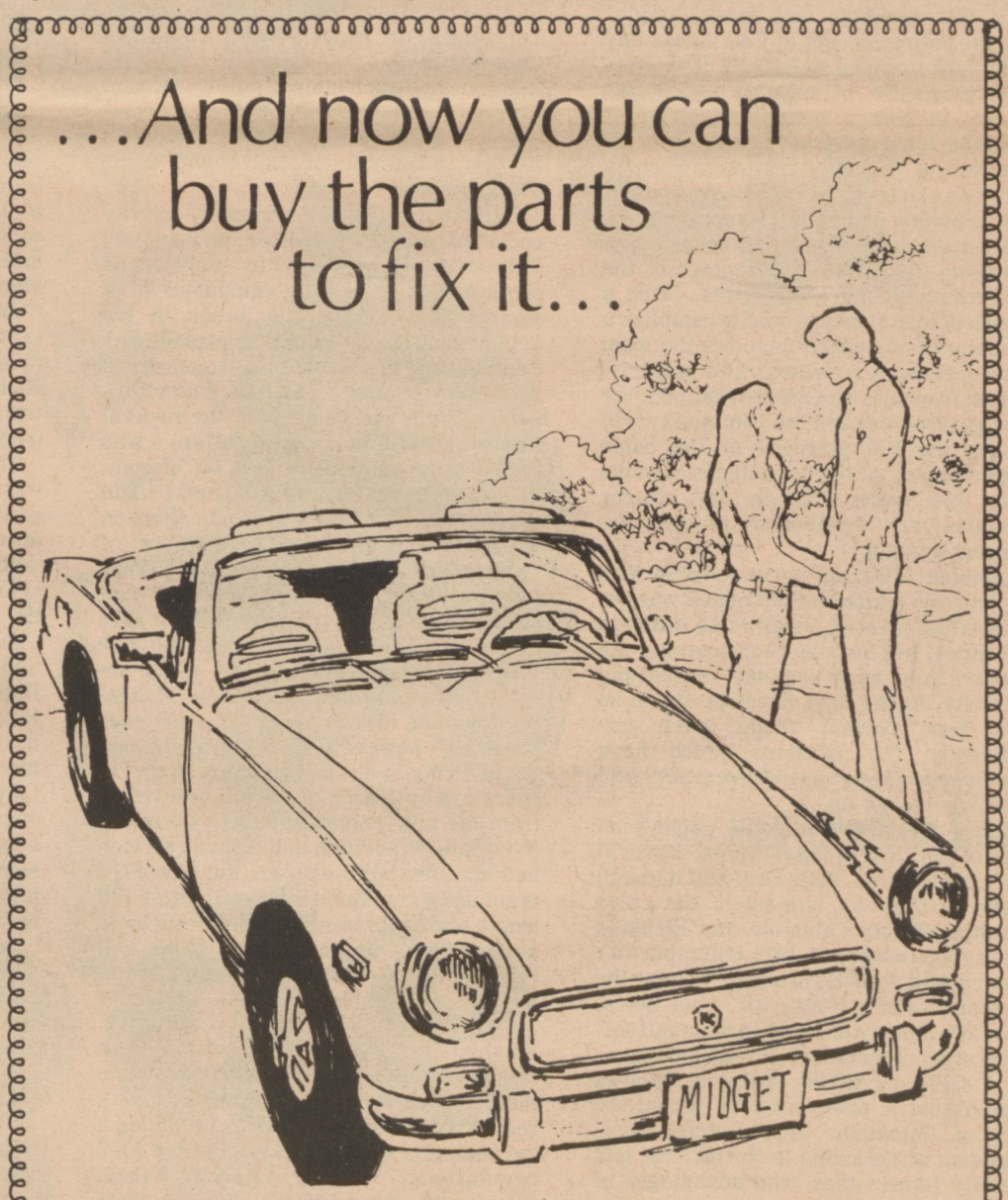
Marge said her decision to break the heroin habit was prompted by several incidents, including losing four friends in the past year to overdoses.

Before she quit, however, she became very familar with drug traffic in the area. She claims Wheeler Hill, a ghetto neighborhood near the junction of Pickens and Wheat Steets, is a regular hangout for heroin users and pushers.

Marge sees prostitution and heroin traffic in Columbia as comparable to that of large cities such as New York or Atlanta. She believes the lower incidence of "vice" is due only to the smaller population base, rather than more effective law enforcement or more stringent community mores.

One indication, she said, is the prevalence in Columbia of some of the traditional prostitute con games. One such gambit involves having one prostitute rob a car while its owner is being kept busy elsewhere by another prostitute. Marge explains most "johns" leave their wallets in their locked cars when they are tricking because they are afraid that if they fall asleep the prostitute will make off with all their money. As she pointed out, this effort proves futile.

Marge has left the Columbia area. She has also quit the heroin scene, although she says she will probably shoot up again "once in a while." And she has quit "tricking", although she occasionally breaks that vow also--for instance, to pay a lawyer a back debt. Marge likes Columbia and explains she will probably return someday soon. After all there are a lot of opportunities in the Columbia area. Ask the Chamber of Commerce.



Why didn't Louthian resign?

Continued from page 1

vious that Louthian was more familiar with the entire concept of CATV than any of the other council members. It is standard procedure in most areas of the country to seek a franchise agreement from the local governing body prior to establishing a cable system. Such a franchise can serve at least two purposes: 1) it provides additional revenue for the local government, usually in the form of a lump-sum payment or percentage of the cable company's gross receipts. Often a portion of this money is used to establish a regulatory body which monitors the local cable operator's activities. 2) a properly-written franchise can assure that both the local government and the community will receive the full potential of the cable system (many of the advantages of cable other than more channels and clearer reception are mentioned in the accompanying story).

Louthian's first act not in keeping with his duties as a member of Council was not his establishment of a legitimate business enterprise, but his silence concerning the county's role as a possible franchising authority. As the story develops, it will be seen how Council might have circumvented the problems which have developed since last November had Louthian spoken up.

About the time Palmetto Cablevision began physical preparations, several other cable firms, both local and national, began to show an interest in the cable potential of both Columbia and Richland County. On October 27, 1972, Columbia City Council held a public hearing "to hear the pros and cons of Cable TV," but not to "...make a hasty decision in this matter." Several representatives of national and or local cable operations spoke in favor of establishing a cable network within the City of Columbia. Alex Purcell, vice-president of Telecable in Norfok, Va. told the city fathers that "the advantages of cable TV would be increased revenues for the city; also, increased services by receiving a stronger signal; also, there will be additional jobs which would create a better economy for Columbia." Others speaking in favor of the proposal were Larry Hertzog of Cable Communications in Atlanta, Yancey McCloud of Miami, Fla.'s Wometco Enterprises, Bruce Lovett, who according to the city council minutes represented American Television Communications, and local attorney Terrell Glenn representing Columbia Cable TV, Inc.

The firms which addressed City Council were only a few of the dozen or so companies which would eventually show an interest in both the city and county cable markets.

Little in the way of newsworthy activity occurred between November, 1971 and late February, 1972. Palmetto Cablevision continued to install its equipment at a steady pace. During this break in the action, it might be helpful to explain why Louthian and his partners were concerned with the time element. As Palmetto's cable system was being built, the Federal Communications Commission was preparing to release its first set of comprehensive cable regulations. The regulations, which were to go into effect on March 31, 1972, placed a number of requirements--designed primarily to serve the public interest and prevent unscrupulous cable operation--on cable systems operating within the top 100 viewing areas in the country, which includes Columbia and the 35-mile radius surrounding it. The new FCC cable code provided, however, that "grandfather" cable firms, i.e., those which were in operation by March 31, would be exempt from the new regulations for a period of five years. In addition to the public service and accountability clauses, the new FCC regulations contain provisions limiting the length of a cable franchise, requiring local authorities to approve initial rates and regulate all rate increases, and generally forcing new cable firms to be more responsible to the local community. Louthian and Palmetto Cablevision were attempting to beat the March 31 deadline, thereby avoiding the public accountability requirements for five years by becoming a "grandfather system. "Avoiding the FCC regulations," County Attorney Frank Sloan told Osceola, "is--or was--their reason for going ahead and commencing and trying to get an operation going before the March deadline. It's no secret. That's exactly what they stated at the courthouse."

In late February, 1972, several representatives from other local, recently-formed cable companies approached County Council and asked for franchise guidelines. One local observer, who followed the cable issue from its inception, speculates that these newer cable companies realized that Palmetto Cablevision's initial setup was nearing completion, which would give Palmetto a distinct advantage in an open competition CATV market. Realizing competition for a franchise was their best chance of gaining a hold on the potentially lucrative suburban areas of the county, the observer asserts that the two new companies, Midlands Cable Television and Columbia Cable TV, Inc., brought as much pressure to bear as possible on the remaining members of County Council and on the Richland County legislative delegation, trying to get some sort of franchise law passed.

The observer's assertions seem to hold water. Both of the new firms had extensive political connections---one in fact had an officer who was a member of the Richland delegation.

The S.C. Secretary of State's office lists the officers of Columbia Cable TV, Inc. as Charles Porter and Richard Sullivan. Sullivan is a member of the House of Representatives from Richland County. Both are law partners of former federal district attorney Terrell Glenn, who has already been mentioned as representing Columbia Cable at the city's public hearing. And although Glenn is not listed as a company officer, a February 11, 1972 story in the Columbia Record identifies him as "a stockholder and representative of Columbia Cable TV, Inc."

At least one of the officers of Midlands Cable Television, Inc. was also in a position to add political clout to the request for a franchise law. The Secretary of State's list of officers for Midlands Cable is headed by former governor Robert E. McNair, who has heretofor been identified as "an attorney for the firm"---which indeed he is. Midlands Cable's only other local officer is David E. Baker, a Columbia investment broker. The other officers list addresses in Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colorado. All but one are also officers of American Television and Communications Coproration, one of the three largest cable firms in the country, with sales of over $10 million per year. A.T.&C. operates strictly as a holding company with subsidiaries operating community antenna television systems. One of the A.T.&C. officers is Bruce E. Lovett, who represented A.T.&C. at the City Council's October hearing—at which time no one had heard of Midlands Cable. ovett, who serves as A.T.&C.'s Vice President (Corporate Devel), worked in 1967 as Assistant to the General Counsel of the National Community Television Association. The other three officers of Midlands Cable serve A.T.&C. respectively as president and director, vice president and treasurer, and vice president of marketing.

County Council deferred action on the franchise guideline request, pending a ruling from the state attorney general's office on whether the county government possessed the power to franchise.

Up until this point, the other two members of County Council's triumvarate, John Green and Stuart Hope, were relatively uninformed about CATV in general. The pair followed an example Louthian had already set and flew to Washington to find out more about cable television operations.

The attorney general's opinion came down in early March, concluding that the county did not have the power to franchise cable companies, that this was a right reserved to the General Assembly. (After the attorney general's opinion was released, Columbia City Manager Gray Olive expressed his belief that the city does have the right to issue permits and franchises, inherent in its right to control streets and the fixtures thereon. This concept has been upheld by the courts in several other parts of the country.)

Despite the attorney general's ruling. County Council decided to go ahead and pass a franchise law (a law given very little consideration) in mid-March. Council then took the law to the Richland legislative delegation, where it received unanimous approval. The delegation carried the county franchise law to the General Assembly where it was passed by both the House and Senate that same day. Because County Council was anxious for the law to go into effect prior to the initiation of the new FCC regulations on March 31, Governor West created some tension by allowing the bill to sit on his desk for several days, but he finally signed the bill before the deadline.

Councilman Louthian refrained from voting on the franchise law when it passed through Council, ostensibly because he had served as Palmetto's Cablevision's attorney until just before the law was written. But it was well-known, of course, that Louthian also had a financial interest in Palmetto, and it was obvous that if the franchise law was not aimed directly at Louthian's company, Palmetto still had by far the most to lose.

The folks at Palmetto Cablevision, however, were not sitting idly by. Several days prior to the enactment of the franchise law, Palmetto announced that it had completed its antenna tower just north of Columbia, installed a feeder line, and begun service to subscribers in Denny Terrace. What sort of service had actually begun is questionable. County Attorney Sloan told Osceola, "I don't know exactly what they did at Denny Terrace. Their salesmen were going around the neighborhood signing people up. I do remember specifically that they had actucally hooked up nine people. They did not testify exactly to what extent this hookup was. I would rather doubt that they (had) provided any additional signals at this point. A larger antenna was about what it amounted to."

Because of the vagueness of the FCC rules concerning "grandfathering," it would be difficult to say whether Palmetto actually needed to hook up the subscribers in order to prove they were "in operation." But the hookups served as insurance, beating both the passage of the franchise law and the effective date of the FCC regulations by several days.

Armed with a new franchise law, County Council minus Louthian was prepared to halt the progress of Palmetto Cablevision and begin the franchise process. County Council asked Fifth Circuit Judge John Grimball for an injunction halting Palmetto's operations until a hearing could be held. Grimball refused to grant the injunction, primarily because the county would be required to put up money in the form of bonds against possible losses to Palmetto. Sloan, who filed the suit on the county's behalf against Louthian's

Cable TV

company, said Grimball elected instead to "just go ahead and give the thing a prompt hearing and a prompt decision..."

The question of Councilmen Hope and Green's involvement in the passage of the franchise law was raised by several individuals interviewed while this story was being prepared. Why, they ask, did Green and Hope oppose Louthian so strongly when they constantly vote with him on other issues? Because he failed to let them in on the cable operation? Because one of the cable companies pushing the franchise law made them an offer? Or simply because Louthian had deprived the county of a new source of revenue in the form of a franchise?

Sometime between the period when the county franchise law was passed by the General Assembly, and the date of the final hearing before Judge Grimball on April 20, Louthian took one final step. Perhaps he was correcting an oversight, or simply making sure he had all of the county's options covered.Whatever the reason, Louthian decided his firm needed to gain permission to cross county roads. Louthian's need for a county permit came at an awkward time. The power to grant right-of-ways across county roads then resided with County Supervisor Laney C. Talbert, who was in the process of being stripped of his powers through a "governmental modernization" program of County Council. Louthian, Hope, and Green were the three members of Council who had railroaded through the legislation which would soon reduce Talbert's powers.

Louthian arranged a meeting with Talbert to discuss the granting of the right-of-way. An extemely reliable witness, who asks that his name be withheld, was present at the meeting and related the meeting's events to Osceola. The witness said Louthian "practically begged Talbert" for a letter granting the right-of-way, apologizing to Talbert for his past actions and promising to do "anything Talbert wanted him to do," including, the witness said, not running for County Council again if Talbert so requested. According to the witness, Talbert told Louthian that even though he had treated him bad, he would sign the necessary papers.

A few weeks later, the Talbert letter turned up at the final court hearing, taking the county attorney and other county officials somewhat by surprise: our witness says that Talbert did call Louthian at a later date and request that he honor his promise not to run for County Council again. "Louthian laughed in his face," the witness said.

The Talbert letter played a significant role in Judge Grimball's ruling, which was finally rendered on July 31. Grimball agreed with Palmetto Cablevision's attorney John G. McMasters that the county franchise law constituted a form of special legislation where general legislation was possible and was therefore unconstitutional. The judge ruled additionally that the law was unconstitutional because it granted to Richland County Council arbitrary power "to be exercised merely at their will or caprice, whether they are disposed to so exercise it or not."

In addition to taking a stand that the law was legal, the county had contended that the minimal amount of service being provided by Palmetto at the time the law was passed did not constitute operation, and that Palmetto had never obtained permission to trespass on county roads and streets and other rights-of-way.

Grimball ruled that any operation at all constitutes operation. In answer to the county's other allegation, Grimball cited County Council's letter to Southern Bell and Talbert's letter granting use of the county's public roads.

Grimball's ruling is currently on appeal to the State Supreme Court. Palmetto Cablevision's status with the FCC is uncertain, but several local groups are considering seeking legal assistance and filing a complaint with the FCC. Palmetto Cablevision ostensibly halted their expansion voluntarily when the hearings were first held in April, and County Attorney Frank Sloan informs Osceola that his office is under the assumption that Palmetto will not resume operations until a Supreme Court decision is reached.

If the Supreme Court decision is returned in favor of Palmetto Cablevision, which seems likely at this point the unincorporated areas of Richland County could conceivably become a battleground for cable TV operators. In addition to Palmetto, Midlands, and Columbia Cable, at least half-a-dozen other firms have indicated an interest in developing the cable potential in Richland County. What will more likely happen, however, given the tremendous headstart gained by Palmetto and Gulf-Western, is that Louthian & Co. will end up controlling a great deal of the county's cable TV business.

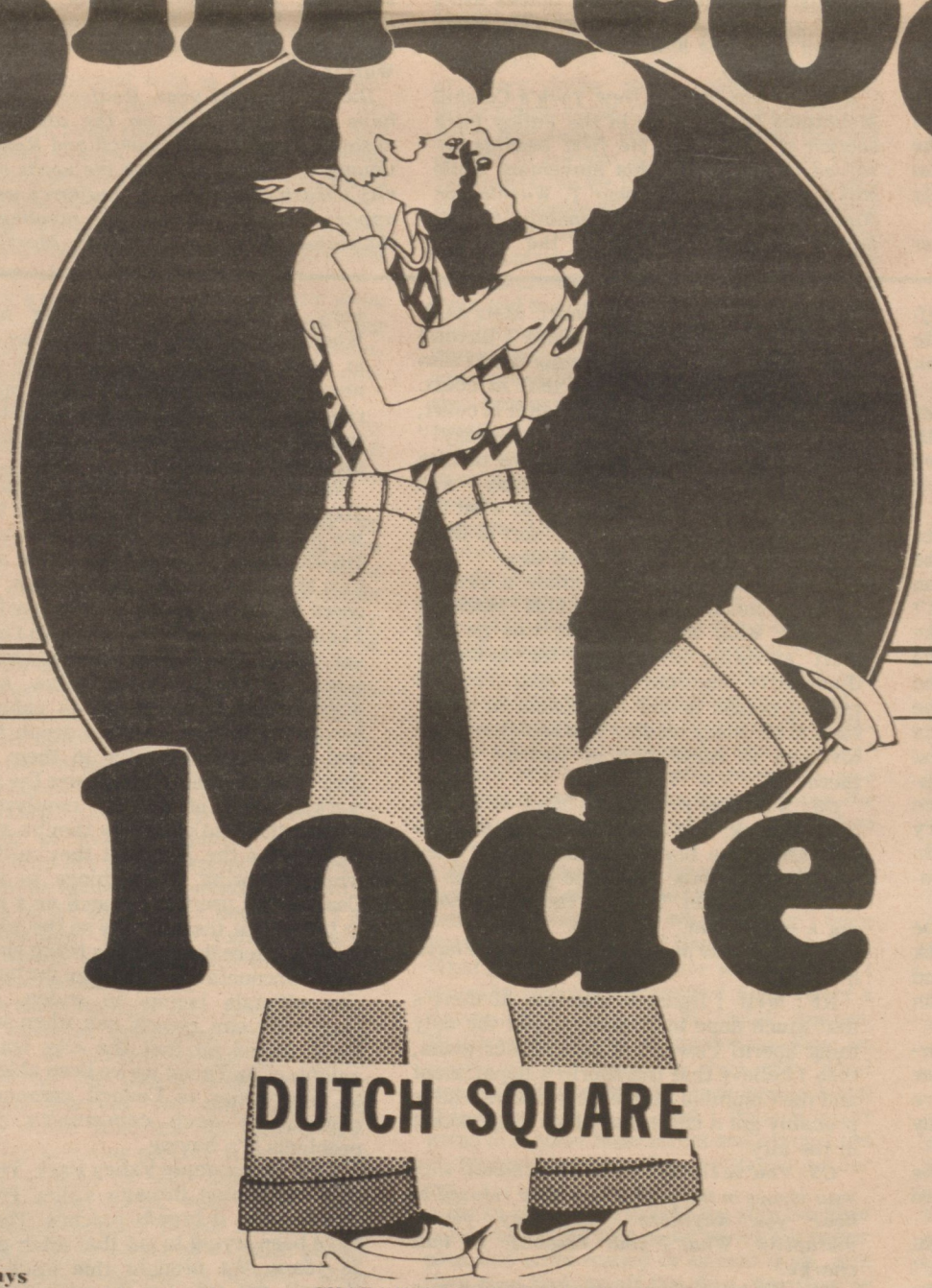
Throughout the development of the local CATV sutuation, Louthian's failure to perform properly in his role as public servant can be clearly delineated. In the beginning, he should either have resigned from Council or informed Council of the cable franchise situation and its potentials. If he had done so, there might have been enough time to pass a general state law regarding the franchising of CATV systems. The loss of the franchise to the county has meant not only a loss in revenue. It has created a situation where Palmetto Cablevision may operate with virtually no regulation, since the FCC has left much of the regulation up to local franchising authorities.

Not content with defeating the county franchise ordinance, Louthian and Palmetto Cavlevision have also made what will probably ultimately be a successful attempt to circumvent the FCC's new regulations, at least for the next five year—regulations which are not so much restrictions as they are opportunities for the public to benefit from the CATV system's great versatility. And last, but perhaps not least, Louthian has allowed, without public debate, the entrance of Gulf-Western Industries into the local cable picture--a mammoth corporation described by one consultant at Washingron's Cable Television Information Center as a company with a history of exploitation of local cable systems.

What more can we say?

Related story, pg. 13

comstock



Baggies, Pleats, Cords,

Tops and Leather Goods

lode

DUTCH SQUARE

Open Until 9:00 Weekdays

CHARGE CARDS WELCOME

—Until 6:00 Saturdays

osceola interview

REDFERN II, BLACK NATIONALIST

Depending on whether you're white or black, radical or conservative, politician or public servant, informed or uninformed, you may love, hate, or never have heard of Columbia's black enigma, Redfern II.

Whatever your particular situation, the editors believe you will find the following interview with the city's most celebrated young black activist both informative and provocative. At times during the course of the interview, Redfern makes bitter personal attacks upon a number of influential figures in the state and local scene. These attacks have been left untouched for the most part because we believe they serve both to gauge the depth of this black radical's rage and to reveal more of the personality and character of this individual than has heretofor been revealed in the daily press.

Redfern's fierce belief in using whatever means necessary to achieve his goal of black self-determination is evident in his comments during the interview, particularly his penchant for pitting one white group against another to achieve black goals.

At 24, Redfern II (he dropped his first name "to keep white folks from getting too familiar with me") heads operations for Blacks United for Action, a coalition composed primarily of young blacks using public advocacy as a tool to correct social ills and move the black community toward self-sufficiency.

Redfern was born in New York's Catskill Mountains but grew up in the Valley Park section of Columbia. He first became involved in the civil rights movement while still a sophomore at Booker T. Washington High School, and he occasionally admits having been a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) at some point during the sixties. During three years as an engineering student at USC, Redfern organized Blacks United for Action and began to involve himself more in local issues, dropping out of the University in 1969 to devote his full time to the black struggle.

In 1970, Redfern served as campaign director for the United Citizens Party's first statewide race, pitting black Columbia attorney Thomas Broadwater against Democrat John West and Republican Albert Watson.

During the past year, Redfern and BUA have constantly been on the attack, accusing Columbia City Council and Richland County Council of ignoring the needs of the city's black communities. Redfern's weekly appearances at city council meetings so infuriated Councilman Welch Morrisette that the council passed a motion permanently prohibiting Redfern from appearing before the city fathers. Redfern then took BUA into the streets, holding rallies at city hall every Saturday to emphasize black concern over council's unresponsiveness. Meanwhile, BUA continued to picket Main Street merchants, asking blacks to refuse to patronize downtown stores until those stores begin to hire black men and women in positions of responsibility.

Although City Council officially ignored BUA's Saturday rallies and activities, the mass demonstrations apparently had their effect, for council recently passed an ordinance declaring that groups may demonstrate only once a year--and then only after thirty days notice.

Portions of the interview have been deleted due to considerations of space.

OS: Now that city council has said in effect that you may have no more public demonstrations, what will you do? Are you finished with that kind of action now?

RF: No, we're not finished. That's what the law says. That has nothing to do with what the people are going to do. We've always maintained that a wrongful law can't stop a rightful cause.

It's the same as it was with the police department. R.J. Metz, an officer with the Columbia Police Department, pulled a gun on Roscoe Powell and said, "Run. I haven't killed me a nigger in a long time," and he was suspended for only two weeks after he admitted that in court. I feel that its the same thing in that particular case. If the police department can't live up to its responsibility in terms of satisfying the needs of the community, then the community has to do it itself. If the police department can't take Metz to court and try him and come up with some just punishment, then its left up to the black community specifically to deal with it.

In other words, a black warrant should be issued; he should be taken to a black court...a court where "right is right, and wrong is wrong, and they put the policeman where he belongs."

I feel the same way about the city ordinance about demonstrations. If we can get 12,000 to the Freedom Day Picnic...we're going to have a demonstration whether they give us a permit or not.

OS: This statement you mentioned by the policeman, Metz...you say he admitted making the statement under oath?

RF: Well, it happened on a Friday night on Wheeler Hill. He said "Run, I haven't killed me a nigger in a long time." And the following Monday in city court, Metz said, "Yeah, I told him to run cause I haven't killed me a nigger in a long time--and I also slapped him." He admitted that in court. And I figure if the cat admitted that in court, then he's not only racist, but he's crazy!"

We've been sending people down to City Court every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to just sit there and look at what the police are doing to people. This sort of thing is going on every day and all day.

When some black men made a protest about prostitution in the 2100 block of Gervais, what the police did was go and start arresting everybody for loitering, disorderly conduct...they just started putting people in jail at random to strike back at the black leaders who said they were involved in some sort of corrupt action there.

OS: Were the prostitutes black or white?

RF: Black. You see, they always want to talk about the black prostitutes, but they don't want to talk about the prostitutes at the DeSoto Hotel. You see the police have got a cut in that.

OS: What else do you think the police have a cut in?

RF: Well, I figure it like this. If there's that much dope in Columbia, and the only thing Sheriff Powell can find is marijuana, then I believe that the sheriff's department and the Columbia Police Department...have probably got a cut in the whole drug racket in the city.

OS: You've tried to go to City Council with your issues in the past. They have refused to hear you anymore. They say you're disruptive. What's your response to that charge?

RF: We have always gone to council in a very organized and orderly manner. Whenever we go to City Council, we don't go in mass numbers; we take two people--myself and a person to pass out press releases. Everything we are going to say at council is already printed and distributed to members of council.

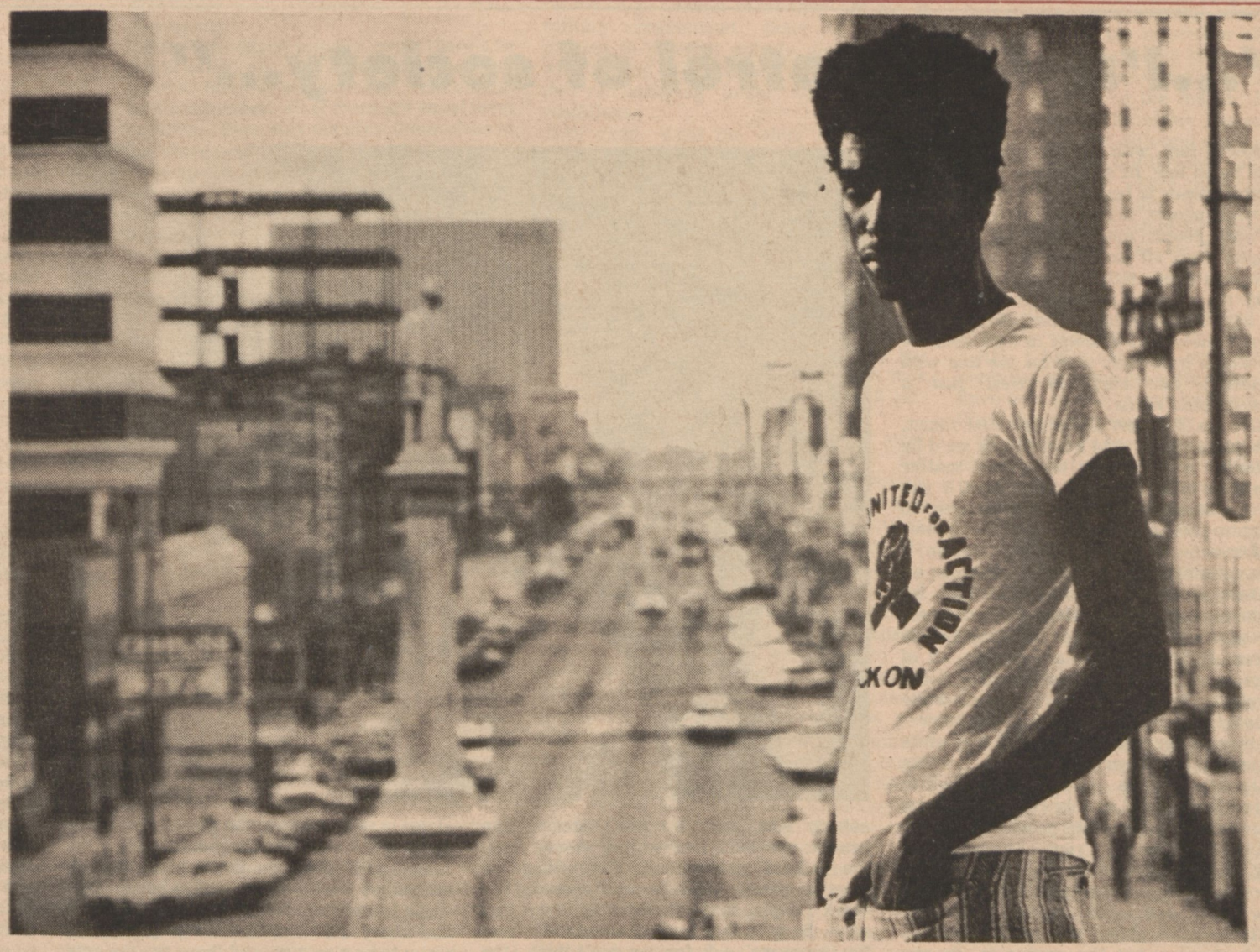
What has happened is we began to talk about reordering the priorities of the city. We noticed the city council was spending $15,000-$30-000 trying to figure out a way to turn Main Street into a rose garden. They've spent $1,126,972 on a six-story parking lot. Their priorities are on Downtown Columbia--on all the rich white businessmen's interests in the City of Columbia. And they neglected to pave streets, to enforce city housing codes, to make sure people have hot and cold running water in their houses; they've neglected to make sure the garbage workers and other city employees are getting the kind of money they're supposed to have for the jobs that they're doing--so when we bring these things to the City Council and use City Council as a platform to talk about these things so the whole city can see where the money is being spent...the gap of accountability between the public and city officials begins to widen, because everybody can clearly see when we bring these issues up that the city isn't doing anything. And what we've been able to do is to take things to Council community by community--each community and the problems it's having.

Take for example Valley Park. They have a ditch running through Valley Park that breeds rats; it breeds roaches. The people have been trying to get that ditch piped for 25 years. We brought this issue to City Council, not only for the people of Valley Park, but for the people all over the city to see. The mayor and the city Council promised to have that ditch piped. They haven't piped it yet. And in the case of the New York Apartments on Waites Road, we did the same thing. We talked about the city not enforcing the housing codes, the people not having hot water, the streets being unpaved, there's not enough street lights, no adequate garbage collection. City Council here again was brought before the public.

So to keep those kinds of things from happening, Councilman Morrisette, who acts as hatchetman for City Council, moved to just stop us from appearing and closed the doors in our face. So what we did to counteract that--our next move on the chessboard--was to bring 3,000 people down to City Hall every Saturday to say there are some people concerned about conditions. We continued (the Saturday rallies) on different issues for approximately three or four months. And now they move to say we cannot demonstrate unless we give them 30 days notice, and we can have only one demonstration a year.

We feel that now--if they're going to play the game like that--if they're going to have the police running all over the streets beating and kicking people and pulling guns out on people, and they're not going to allow us the non-violent route of demonstrating and picketing to let our greivances be known, then we're going to have to explore another alternative. Whether that alternative is setting up the same kind of vigilantes they set up in 1910 with the Ku Klux Klan is left up to them.

OS: What other alternatives are there besides something like that? Is there another non-violent alternative?



RF: From my vantage point, unless they begin to change and reorder their priorities, there is no other alternative. People in this city have become so frustrated, with not only city government, but with county government and state government--the Richland County delegation not being responsible, County Council not being responsible, City Council not being responsible; the police department, sheriff's department, the medical facilities not being responsible--and like, there is no where else to turn. So I feel that either we're all going to be able to live together in peace and harmony, or this city is just going to have to be in a state or terror and destruction. We're just going to have to tear it down. If we all can't live together in peace and have all the services the city and county and state are supposed to provide, then nobody should get those services.

I think the city and county are operating the same way the plantation system was operated, where blacks have all the jobs, white folks have all the positions, and all the work is dumped on our backs. I feel that I'm just not going to work for no more crackers--I just ain't going to work for no more crackers. We're either going to have all of the things this city provides, or we're just going to tear it down. We've done everything that we can to be peaceful, non-violent, to go through all the channels, work within the system, aand all of it has meant nothing but frustration and failure.

OS: Then you totally discount any greater minority participation in the political process..greater minority participation in the Democratic Party...you discount this altogether?

RF: I don't think that means a hill of beans. I think that's the game the white folks are selling us now. Ten years ago, it was street demonstrations. They've always got some panacea for the problems. In other words, they get you involved with a method of problem-solving when really that method's not solving your problems. They have you running around all over the city talking about registering people to vote when all the time they control all the resources, all the things necessary to get people out to vote. You might be able to get the people registered, but you won't be able to get them to vote for your candidate, because (the county machine) controls the goods and services in this county. A black man is running for office and talking about wanting to change things, but he can't offer anything. Whereas the people who are incumbent can offer things--half the people in the Richland County legislative delegation are lawyers, and most of their cases are black, so you're talking about goods and services.

OS: You seem to be having difficulty lately gaining access to the media. Do you feel that there's a conspiracy--conscious or unconscious--between the daily papers, T.V., radio and downtown businessmen? Is it just white folks sticking together? Is the media making any effort to cover what blacks are doing--what your group has been trying to do downtown?

RF: They aren't amking any effort to cover anything except the Doxiadas Report. When I say that, I mean the only thing they're concerned with is building downtown Columbia. An example is that the media has been placing emphasis on the feasibility studies, on all the new building programs downtown. They have not placed any kind of emphasis on the human needs of the city. The only thing that the news media has been concerned with is the construction program of the city.

But it's not only a conspiracy in the news media, its a city-wide conspiracy involving businessmen, public officials, the media, and construction companies. It's a conspiracy among all of these groups.

OS: Why all this effort to build up downtown? Are these forces trying to keep it from going black, as other core cities have done?

RF: The reason they're building up downtown is all of the white people are fleeing the city; they're leaving....Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina represents the economic backgone of the city. Thirty percent of all the retail sales in the City of Columbia take place on Main Street. Now--who shops downtown? All the white people in the suburbs are going to Dutch Square, Richland Mall, Trenholm Plaza, and the reason they're going is because of shopper's conveniences; malls, new ideas in merchandising...The only people who are shopping in mass downtown are black people. Why are they shopping downtown? Because the entire transportation system in this city is set up so black people can't go anywhere else. You can't catch a bus to Dutch Square because all the buses come downtown on Main Street.

So we estimate right now, because of the traffic business downtown, black people represent 68 percent of all the traffic business--all the people walking around downtown--whereas we only hold nine percent of the jobs, and the largest percentage of that nine percent is in janitorial (work). So when we start talking about a boycott of Main Street, what we're really talking about is black people not shopping downtown. As it stands now, white people are using black people to support Main Street until they can change it and attract more white people to come back downtown. All the land that the Reese Brothers own down on Broad River that they're trying to develop now to put new high-rise, high-rent apartments to attract white people back into the city---All that's a part of the Doxiadas Report and the overall plan that white folks have for the City of Columbia.

Now when we started talking about a boycott--when we said it was effective--the reason we said it was effective was because of the way we analyzed the economics of downtown. Now, we figured it like this:out of every dollar that's spent downtown, there's only about 10 percent profit coming out of that dollar, and I'd say seven percent of that 10 percent is going back into reinvestments. So we figured that out of every hundred people who were spending a dollar downtown, all we had to stop to cut the margin of profit was three. So that's why we decided to undertake a boycott at Christmas time and to continue talking about a boycott and having demonstrations every Saturday. Since that time, we have put enough pressure on Main Street so that they can feel the economic pinch, but not so much pressure as to destroy the whole thing.

In other words, we've been able to keep them honest. Since then, a number of black people have been hired, but not nearly enough. The banks are beginning to undertake programs where they're training blacks; the department stores are beginning to open their doors to salesmen and buyers--the old lie they were telling about blacks not being qualified is being disproved now. They're beginning to look at Benedict and Allen as resources for getting personnel.

OS: Is there no way that the Doxiadas Report is a positive thing for black people? If black people are shopping downtown, and the city is purporting to be improving the shopping situation downtown, where does the conflict come in?

RF: See, the whole thing boils down to money. What good is it to be able to shop in a better shopping facility when you don't have the money to shop? Just like old integration. What good is it to integrate when you don't have the money to integrate? I don't give a damn about shopping at Dutch Square, Richland Mall, or downtown as long as you've got the money to shop with. What we're concerned with is black people being able to get their cut. And I think if we're going to support Main Street and carry it out of this troubled time, then we should get our cut.

We're being used to hold the ship together until white folks can come up with a better plan and more money to tighten it up, and then they kick us off the ship. What we're saying is we eventually want to get off the ship, but we want to be able to get enough scratch to do that. In other words, we want to think in terms for our own people, but we can't do that as long as white folks have us tied to their fate.

OS: The recent state government report from the Governor's Commission on Human Relations revealed that there were very few blacks working for the state in positions above menial labor. I doubt the report was any surprise to you. Do you think there's going to be a positive response to this report?

RF: I don't think there is a positive response, because the media again is a part of the conspiracy. If you look at the publicity the report got compared to the publicity that one black man (George Hamilton) who heads one state agency (Commission on Human Relations)--and really ain't a state agency, just a jive thing made to look like a state agency--you can see that white folks are already picking out a token and saying black people are in responsible positions in state government. And the media has done everything it can to provide the smoke screen necessary for the state government to flim-flam the black community.

Take for example, when Governor West came out and said that all the people in low level jobs were going to get a raise and that it was going to be a higher percentage raise than the people at the top got. Well, the new media, all the t.v. stations, really pushed that because they wanted everybody to see that Governor West was a liberal governor. But Governor West did not tell the people that while he was giving them a raise, he was taking away some of their benefits. Take for example at the mental hospital. The bottom-level employees did get a higher raise, but they lost all their medical benefits; they lost all their privileges to get prescriptions filled; they lost more benefits they they got in their raise. So really it's just a game that they're running; they give one thing to you to take another from you. The news media did not fulfill their responsibility to provide the other side of the story.

OS: Do you think then Gov. West's "New South" image is a creation of the new media? What does the New South mean to you---this idea that we're different than we used to be.

RF: The New South is really a new coat game the white folks are running--that's all it is. Governor West is Adolph Hitler in disguise. Governor West is just another jive racist cracker. And you know his background points it out very clearly coming from Camden, S.C. Governor West has done nothing for black people, except run a real smooth, slick game on t.v. As

Continued on next page

"...I'm for control of society..."

matter of fact, with him pushing the whole New South line, he's been able to get more federal money in here to provide more jobs for white people, to provide more programs for white people, more everything for white people. And all he gives us is a damn bathroom every 5000th house.

OS: Do you think the state would be better off with someone like Albert Watson who doesn't make any attempt to hide what he is? Would it be easy to draw the line with somebody like that? Is West just a sophisticated racist?

RF: No, he's not a sophisticated racist, he's just a racist. And I don't think we'd be better off with Watson; it does not matter who is in office. The old line about if you have a hard-line racist, you'll be able to organize the people better--that just doesn't hold true. So with West, Wallace, Watson, it does not matter. All of them are racists; all of them are white nationalists. I think we ought to stop drawing those kind of lines, saying we'll be able to organize people better. All those people are racists, all of them are white nationalists---the South Carolina General Assembly is a white nationalist general assembly, you know---the three niggers included. All of it is white nationalist--its programs are white nationalist; the concept is white nationalism, and it is only concerned about white people...rich white people at that.

OS: When you say "rich white people at that," do you think there's any chance, like down in Olympia where there are a lot of poor black and white people, where the white people's slums are just as bad as black slums...what I'm saying is, do you think there's any common ground among poor blacks and whites in Columbia?

RF: No.

OS: Why not?

RF: Well, I look at the problem like this. The leopard is a cat, the lion is a cat, but you don't see a leopard helping a lion with cat problems. You know, I mean, that's just the way it is. White people are living in slum housing; white people are having problems, but they're having problems for different reasons. Like I told those crackers sitting on the corners selling peanuts; I said "Hey, if you hadn't dropped out of school, if you had gotten ad education, you wouldn't have to be out here selling peanuts."

OS: What is your base for organizing then. As you said, you can't organize against the racists, and so on. What is BUA's position in the black community?

RF: We organize around self-determination.

OS: Do you think this has been successful?

RF: Well, I'll let our record speak for us. The things that we've done. Our organization is an organization with vision. You know, all the shit that we're doing now is good for addressing some of the immediate needs of people, but we eventually want to change the world. We believe we are involved in a Pan-African struggle, that our struggle here is inextricably linked with the struggle of African brothers on the continent, African brothers in Europe, and so on. It's not just that I'm struggling against Mayor John Campbell, or Governor West, or President Nixon; we're struggling against white people all over the world, because they're running the same game on us here they run in Africa, the same game then run on brothers in South America, so it's a worldwide kind of problem. So we're organizing around self-determination, freedom of our Motherland Africa, and those kinds of things.

OS: The ultimate goal then is a separatist society---a white separatist society and a black separatist society?

RF: I'm not so much for separatism as I am for control of society.

OS: That's a pretty subtle distinction, isn't it?

RF: Well, I don't care if we live together just so I'm in control...

OS: You mean blacks determining their own futures?

RF: That's right.

OS: Well, how is that possible in Columbia? You've got to have money; you've got to take your hunk of the city, your hunk of the society, and they're obviously not going to give it to you.

RF: Well, everything we have done so far, a year ago everybody would have said was impossible. Our entire staff is volunteer,

nobody gets paid. We don't receive any grants; we don't receive any money from the federal government. Everything we have is strictly paid for and operated by black people...and whatever else we can steal. So with that kind of mentatlity, and the things we've do far, we don't think (the struggle) is impossible. It's just a matter of being able to manipulate and manuever and play white folks against white folks.

It's a matter of trying to pit the businessmen against the school system, to give you an example. When we initially started talking about the boycott, we started involving different high schools. We involved the youth branch of the NAACP. We had the businessmen calling the school principals telling them to keep their niggers in school. We began to start setting up animosities between different white interest groups. We began to take groups like the League of Women Voters and send them out there. You know, we began to make white people fight themselves, and like ripoff what we could in the process.

Our program is one where we're trying to do the most for the black community. The most to make ourselves self-determining and the most to make ourselves independent, using whatever means are at our disposal.

OS: What do you think your major accomplishments have been in the last year?

RF: Our major accomplishment has been to provide a light or beacon in Columbia, providing a ray of hope for black people. I think that's the most important thing we've done. We've changed the whole image of the black struggle from being one where we cannot succeed, to one where we can achieve some short-term immediate victories and then consolidate ourselves into an organization---being organized, being able to move in an organized and systematic manner. Being able to set up picket lines at ten minutes notice, being able to organize demonstrations within a week's time and have 3,000 people there, beginning to start talking about coordinating the efforts of every segment of the community---getting the preachers to work with the pimps, the businessmen to work with the shoplifters, you know.

We're beginning to organize the black community around goals, around self-determination, around independence, around freedom, and around the concept that we're an African people. We'll feel that's the most important thing, because these basic things are ideological things, and once we've laid the foundation for these kinds of things, we'll be able to take on a more advantageous plan in the future.

OS: Do you think the arguments that your organization doesn't represent the black community is a white attempt to remove your validity? These comments have come from city council and other sources---that Redfern is a radical who doesn't represent the Black community.

RF: I never claimed to represent the entire black community. The only people I claim to represent are the people who listen to the Black On radio program (WOIC), the 3,000 to 5,000 black people who come down to the rallies we have, the 12,000 people that came to the Freedom Day picnic this year and last year, those are the only people I claim to be a part of, and those are the only people I claim to represent. And I say, let everybody who is supposed to represent the black community move the people they're supposed to represent. These are the only people I claim to represent.

I don't claim to be the only spokesman for the black community. I believe my job is to resurrect a new leadership, to ressurrect all the high school people who've been smothered. All the people who were involved in the struggle between 1960 and 1968, let's say, are now over 30 years old. There has to be a new leadership coming up. I believe it's my job to resurrect that leadership and train that leadership, and to put that leadership in the street. We're beginning to do that; we're beginning to organize in high schools, we're beginning to resurrect the new youth leadership. And that's the only segment that I'm concerned with. Your ministers, the black ministers, I think they provide leadership; I think your businessmen provide leadership, but all of us have a certain responsibility in terms of the overall leadership of the black community. I'm only trying to do my part.

OS: Let me ask you something. You were talking about black high school students. We've had a lot of trouble in Columbia, at Dreher High School at Lower Richland, a lot of trouble with blacks against whites and whites against blacks. At one time there was a rumor that BUA was in there trying to get black students to disrupt. Is there any truth to that rumor? And if there is or isn't, what do you see as the goal for blacks in education?

RF: The first thing, is that we're ideally for our own schools with our own curriculum, dealing with our own needs. But since we quite obviously don't have this situation as yet, we have been pushing the idea that black people ought to stand up and fight for whatever they perceive their needs to be. We don't particularly like rascist administrators abusing black people; we don't particularly like teachers flunking black people just because they're black or just because they don't fit into their white thing.

We have not been encouraging people to disrupt schools, because the schools are already disrupted by the administrators. What we have been doing is giving people the skills to organize to solve problems within the schools. Let me give you an example. We helped organize the Black Coalition for Justice in the Schools. The demands of the Black Coaltion for Justice included the removal of Ehoch Smith as principal at Dreher, the removal of Earl Rankin as disciplinarian at Dreher; we wanted the four students involved in the Dreher incident to be acquited. Those are the things we organized around and those are the things we wanted. One other thing we talked about was getting rid of Mooney Player (Lower Richland high school coach and Deadline '72 organizer), and we're about to get rid of him. So those are the kinds of things we've been organizing around; to protect black students, to keep them from being beaten, to give them skills so they can fight on more than just one level, to give them the skills so they can fight on paper as well as in the streets. Give them organizing skills so they can fight not only individually, but collectively. And give them the skills so that when they fight collectively, they can fight on more than just one front.

OS: We've been talking some about the schools. If you perceive the principal at Dreher and Mooney Player in the same racist bag, how do you perceive of people like Bob Moore (liberal school board candidate) and Hayes Mizell (District One board member). Do you think they're doing any good or are they must more New South liberals.

RF: They're the same as John West--white nationalist racists. They are the people who could not find success in the white community. They are the people who have shortcomings, and who are looked at as freaks in the white community. The only status and prestige these people could find was by coming into the black community where there was no status and no prestige and where by the mere fact that they were white they were able to gain automatic status and prestige. But they came to stand on our shoulders, the shoulders of the black community, and use us as their platform to advance their own little personal private egos and interests.

Hayes Mizell, who has been running all over this state talking about he's for black teachers, he's for more black control in the school system, that he speaks to the needs of black people--got up at that school board where those four Dreher students were put out of school, and he voted against them. See, people don't know that; the news media didn't put that in. Hayes Mizell, on everything voted on by the school board, has upheld the interests of the larger white community. And he will quickly tell you, "I was elected by both black and white; I have to satisfy some of the white needs too." Hayes Mizell is just another white motherfucker who has turned the black community into a prostitute. And he's fucking it all the time. And he can kiss my ass. Bob Moore, too, that shaky, nervous motherfucker. What has he done? How many black people are at Columbia College? What has he done to get black people scholarships? He talks about black people needing to get an education, how many black people has he helped get in Columbia College? See, I can't hear what you say because what you do speaks too loud. Shaky motherfucker and so-called liberal.

OS: The question then is, by speaking out against people like Mizell who are termed as "liberals" by West and others...I mean, it's a weird situation when conservatives say these people are radicals and you attack them as being white nationalists.

RF: See, they don't see people like Mizell as big radicals. They see Mizell as a very useful tool and asset to the state, to the newspapers, to the downtown businessmen. He's an infiltrator into the enemy's team. If you've got an infiltrator drawing up strategy for the enemy, then he's obviously an asset. So the newspapers and the Governor all call Mizell a liberator radical to give him credibility, so he can destroy whatever poor people are trying to do. And he has consistently done that. He's running around here now trying to get on some damn commission, licking everybody's ass in town.

OS: What about machine politics in Columbia. Do you believe its one machine, two machines...one for county, another for the city...how do you see it? You went before City Council until they threw you out and finally passed a law stifling your demonstrations. But you got some action from County Council on Roosevelt Village. Were you satisfied?

RF: Well, I think we got a good little bit out of council, but we didn't get nearly enough. I'll tell you, government is set up

Redfern

Continued from page 10

with checks and balances. The truth of the matter is, the only checks and balances which have been existing in the state and in the county are checks and balances for corruption. In other words, city council and county council have been working with each other to make money. What we tried to do is turn that system of checks and balances around; to try and find other agencies to hold these agencies in check.

We began to complain to HUD and start talking about the HUD office in Columbia and Roosevelt Village. And once didn't get any kind of answer from them, we went to Atlanta and started talking about improvements in the housing. While we were doing this, we appeared before County Council talking about the things County Council had jurisdiction over. Not understanding exactly what was going to happen in the HUD investigation or who we were talking to, County Council wanted to clean its end up and get the fuck out of there before the federal government came in. The truth of the matter was that the federal government was never going to come in. They had already been in and decided that everything was all right. But because we were moving faster than their system of communications between the county government and the different federal agencies and the different personalities in those agencies,---because we moved faster, we were able to get some things done.

We were able to get the garbage collected, the sewers fixed, the grass cut, and to implement some plans already drawn up by the recreation committee to put some recreation in the area. Because we organized the thing the way we did, the county council thought that perhaps the federal government was already involved and was subsidizing the things that we were doing, so they wanted to get their end of it clean. We appeared before council and showed a five-minute, 16mm color film. No other niggers in town had done anything like that or were supposed to have resources to do that, so they figured there was somebody else behind us.

We have used City Council as an example of how much of a nigger we can be. County Council feels they can't afford to have that kind of publicity going on with all the other shit they've got going on---how they're trying to rip off the cable t.v., all the money that's being misplaced, all the different things. They figure that if the things we ask for ain't too great, then just give them to us and get us out the way. So we've maintained a pretty good relationship with County Council because of the threat we have that we will come and show our ass like we did with City Council. Because they always at least afforded us the courtesy of being heard and tried to do some of the things that we've asked them to do.

OS: But you think that's just to keep you from going as far as you have with the city? You're playing them one against the other as you said before.

RF: Well, yes, that's the key thing. Anyway, I look at it like this. Mrs. Simpkins (Modjeska Simpkins, Columbia's long-time black activist) and every other black leader in town in on County Council's case. Somebody has to be there to get the ripoff. Uusually, we're in that position; usually we have to go and be the advocate or the radical or the militant or the people who raise hell, and Elliott Franks (black urban League director), Milton Kemper and all those people have to go and collect the benefits, you understand? But in this case, we collected the benefits.

It's the same way white folks have their structure for organizing. They have the J.B. Stoners, the Ku Llux Klan---they have the people who mash on the right; they have the people who mash on the left, and they have the people in the middle to catch the benefits. Well, we're saying we're going to use the same kind of M.O. We're not going to have a one-dimensional struggle; we want a six dimensional struggle where everybody's got a different role to play.

Whereas I can go down on Main Street and picket, boycott, demonstrate, close up stores, and white folks because they don't like me will not give any jobs, but the Urban League or somebody who has been working with them all along, somebody whose been pushing a program with downtwon businessmen can come in and get the jobs we're talking about and thereby resolve the problem.

OS: Well, what's the biggest priority now? Jobs, better pay, more income for the black community?

RF: The biggest priority...well, there's no one priority; all of them are big priorities; streets, houses, employment, the media, communications, all of them are equal level problems. They may manifest themselves in our movement right now--to get jobs, to get more money turned over in the community, but that's only secondary. The important element is to get our own businesses, and what we're trying to do is generate enough enthusiasm and enough interest in the black community that we can begin to start talking about leaving the white folks' businesses and shopping at our own. And to start turning people's thoughts toward the idea that "I can open a business," and start dealing with the Small Business Administration and stop them from lending people just enough money to go out of business--those kinds of things.

So eventually we hope to begin to set up our own grocery stores, our own clothing stores, and to begin to consolidate all the black stores we have open into a network.

OS: How about in housing. Do you foresee black people moving more into landlord situations and so on?

RF: Well, there have been several moves to do that. Black people setting up 236 housing programs, 235 housing programs, where they become the landlords. But the federal government has set it up so you can immediately rush into that, and what they want to do is to turn the black community against itself. They give you enough money to pay a contractor to build a substandard house that in five years will be no good, and the tenants are going to start complaining against the black landlord. And while we're fighting each other, they're going to be pushing their game right on down to the bank, collecting all the money while we're fighting one another, then they're going to come up with another program to take the emphasis off of that and make it look like another golden opportunity for us, then run the same game on us again.

It's the same game they ran with education. In the sixties, white folks started talking about the social ills of the country; how black people need to be sociologists and theoreticians; they began to start talking about making plans for the new society, putting them all in model cities programs, sending them to college, putting speial money in for sociology and psychology programs in black institutions. And at the same time the Ford Foundation was putting that money in black institutions, they were putting money for computer technology and aerospace technology in white institutions. So now, the white folks' job market says we don't need no more sociologists, we don't need no more caseworkers, so we got a whole bunch of black people that have got B.A. degrees that don't mean nothing.

So on the national level, the whole plan is to keep us five to ten years behind the scheme of things, and they create smoke screens that look like "if you get in this, you're in a pot of gold," and all the time its nothing but a game, a deadend street.

OS: To change the subject a little, I know BUA has been working in some capacity with the black officers and inmates at the Central Correctional Institute. Want to talk some about that?

RF: Well, it's a two-fold problem; one being the black people held in those institutions, and the second the black people who work in those institutions. Both of them are getting the shaft. The black workers are not getting paid the same kind of money the white workers are getting. They don't get promotions; they don't hold the positions...they hold all the bottom-level jobs. There's no black supervisors; there's no black department heads; there's no black anything in a job that you might call a "position." The only thing we hold is the work.

And with regards to the prisoners any black person who is in prison and trying to find out a few things, trying to learn a few things--talking about his rights as a human being, talking about his being treated with some kind of respect, talking about his being rehabilitated--these are the people who are victims of all those illiterate white racists in the prisons who run the prisons, because those kinds of people pose a threat to the whole money-making rackets in the prisons.

They pose a threat to the bootleg operation; they pose a threat to the drug operation; they even pose a threat to the counterfeit ring that was discovered in CCI--those people pose a threat, so they are beaten; they are teargassed; they are forced to go without food; they are put in solitary confinement; there is no due process in prisons; nobody gets to know what's going on; the letters are censored, so they're suffering under some horrible conditions.

All right. What the white folks at the prison do to keep all this from coming to the surface is they set up situations where the black prisoners are going to have to fight the black guards. Whenever any kind of incident happens, black quards are placed in the maximum security areas, in the problem areas, so that whites will screw over the black prisoners and the only people the black prisoners can take out their revenge and anger on are the black guards they put in those areas. So you have white folks once again manipulating black people and turning them on themselves.

So what we've done is begin to start talking about other avenues for the prisoners and the guards to take besides venting their anger and agression on one another. We've started talking about outside forces bringing pressures on the prisons. We talked about getting Senator (Walter) Bristow and white people on the Crime and Penology Committee of the State Senate to investigate the white people in the Department of Corrections--to get them to investigate Leeke (William D. Leeke, white director of the State Dept. of Corrections), get them to go through the formalities, get them to antagonize one another, get them to start jocking for position, using one another. Let me give you an example: If Bristow feels having and using this investigative hearing is necessary to get him re-elected, then he'll fuck Leeke.If Charles Powell (D-Abbeville) who is on the committee in the House of Representatives feels he can get some personal mileage out of it, then he'll fuck somebody in the Department of Corrections. In other words, turn white people against one another and hope their own greed and personal ego will generate some different kinds of things.

OS: Then you don't buy this argument that Leeke is a great penologist who has the interests of prisoners at heart? He's supposed to be some sort of authority on modern prison methods.

RF: Leeke is the same kind of racist that Governor West is--the same kind. Anytime you've got prisons operating in the state with counterfeit rings, dope, alcohol, a whole damn still in the prison--he ain't any different. If Leeke is so big and knows so much about prison rehabilitation, why doesn't he have anyone working for him knowing anything? I think one of the first things a man who is supposed to know will do is surround himself with other people who know.

When you break it on down...and get down to the people who actually run the prisons in this state, most of them are illiterate and uneducated, have no training and no understanding of what the rehabilitative process is all about. The only thing they know is how to lock a dog up in a cage and watch him, and that's the way they approach prisoner rehabilitation.

OS: Aren't black correctional officers receiving some sort of rehabilitation training under the Public Service Careers program?

RF: Yes.

OS: Then essentially what you're saying is that black officers are receiving this needed training and being placed under white supervisors who don't care---perhaps don't believe in rehabilitative techniques?

RF: That's exactly right. See, we have not heard Leeke talk about anything in terms of new ideas about rehabilitation. The only thing that Leeke can talk about is serving the system that is already operating. He has not done anything innovative in terms of improving corrections. He's just let the same old system that's been operating since the beginning of time go in. The kinds of things that we've been suggesting are that they begin experimenting with different models that people in prisons all over the country are doing--begin to set up cities in microcosm; let the inmates be the police; let the inmates be the mayor; let the inmates begin to be about the business of learning new and different roles in society; let them actually fulfill those roles; let them be in a situation where they can actively participate in leading a productive life under real circumstances. Those are the kinds of things that we think represent prison reform.

OS: Have you personally had any luck trying to work with him at all?

RF: I have not ever even held a conversation with the man. He doesn't seem to have time to talk to me; he doesn't seem to think that I represent any....

OS: Well, it's the same thing it is every place in state government. They say we have a grievance procedure, if you have a grievance, go through the procedure. What's wrong with that?

RF: Well, the grievance procedure...well, first of all, the black people who work at the prison have a high turnover rate---they quit in three months; they just can't take any more. All right, the state has set up a grievance procedure that does not even apply to an employee until he has been there six months, and most black people have quit by then. But for the people who stay, the first step in the grievance procedure is to take it to your supervisor. Usually , the grievance you have is against that supervisor, so the people who have taken it to their supervisors have been fired. So in terms of that being a grievance procedure, nobody uses it, because everybody knows it's just another flim-flam game.

OS: This is the same grievance procedure that's used everywhere, I guess. It's used by state government and by county government.

RF: It's the state grievance procedure. And the grievance procedure is set up so the state, and I mean the entire state of South Carolina, the Governor, the General Assembly, the Richland County legislative delegation, the county government, the city government--everybody in the state against one individual. See what I'm saying? That's the way the grievance procedure is set up, the entire state versus one individual. And they do that so they can be sure they will always win. And sometimes they lose--that just goes to show you the power of the state.

The second part of that is that (the state government) is trying to discourage any kind of organization whatsoever, whether that's a union organization, or an organization just around specific grievances, so that it will always be the entire state of South Carolina against one individual. They did that with the black correctional officers when they tried to organize. They refused to recognize them because they said the state does not have the right to recognize them--which is a lie. They did that in the case of the (state) hospital workers; both sets of hospital workers, the ones who organized 1199 (the national hospital workers' union), and the ones who organized the Concerned Citizens in the hospital. They refused to recognize either one of these agents.

The hospitals and the state government has done the same thing to all these workers that the City Council has done to us. They've closed every avenue of redress. They're bottling people up.

OS: So what happens next?

RF: Well, we all have our cross to carry. The old rugged cross. And as I see it, the entire City of Columbia--black and white people--are on their way to Calvary. And it's going to be up to the people in power to decide who is going to be crucified, because the blood in going to run in the streets of the City of Columbia if nothing else is done. There's no other place to turn.

FOR ... service
THE ... parts
BEST... new & used cars
COME TO

GIBBES VOLKSWAGEN

THE COLISEUM IS ACROSS FROM US
cars since 1909; VOLKSWAGEN since 1955...

New & Used Furniture

At Prices To Fit the Student Budget

From One Chair To A House Full

Used Stoves, Refrigerators
GAURANTEED

CREDIT TERMS

R. E. HENDRIX FURNITURE CO.
1327 ASSEMBLY ST. PHONE AL. 31202
COLUMBIA, S. C.

477 SCOTT®

where innovation is a tradition

AM/FM stereo receiver
70 watts per channel

- ✓ **dual tuning meters** show signal strength and precise center station tuning simultaneously without switching.
- ✓ **silver plated FET front end** maximizes sensitivity, virtually eliminates spurious signals, receives more stations with less distortion.
- ✓ **full complementary silicon output stage** improves power bandwidth and reduces distortion.
- ✓ **one of the most powerful amplifiers ever built** into an integrated receiver offers plenty of reserve capability to drive the most demanding speaker systems.
- ✓ **solderless "tension wrap" connections** eliminate cold solder joints, improve reliability and longevity.
- ✓ **100% american made product** backed by H. H. Scott's decades-old reputation for engineering innovation and integrity assures unexcelled performance and trouble free long life.

Crawley's
TV & Music Ctr.

2714 DEVINE 256-0541

Stereos Receivers From $199.95

2 Year Warranty On All Scott Equipment
Personal Service from Professionals

bottoms & tops

PRESENTS

"Great Moments in Bottoms"

For Your Next "Great Moment" Come to Bottoms and Tops and See the Extraordinary Selection of Tops—The Best In The City.

Smocks Body Shirts Blouses Belts Jeans Jackets Blazers

DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA

So what is cable TV, anyway?

by John Norton

So what is cable TV? To the majority of the community, it's probably a service of limited, if not somewhat questionable, value, providing at best clearer reception and a few more channels with a lot of the same programs.

Such an attitude toward and understanding of cable TV is fairly predictable. For most of its relatively short history, Community Antenna Television has done little more than bring in better reception and more channels to communities with reception problems created by geographic conditions, building congestion, and so on.

Currently, most cable companies derive their profits from subscribers who pay a monthly charge for the cable service. Prior to the widespread usage of the coaxial cable, which can carry a large number of different frequencies, cable operators generally set up business only in those areas where the population had little or no television reception. But with advances in technology, the market for cable began to grow, and currently there are literally hundreds of cable companies vying for highly-profitable contracts in the nation's more heavily populated areas.

But it is not simply cable's current capabilities which have caused cable operators to scramble for franchises. The idea that cable is useful simply as a device to produce better reception and more commercial stations is obsolete. CATV's future, a future which will likely culminate within the next ten years, is the future of the revolution in communications.

One publication, "A Short Course In Cable" published by the United Church of Christ, puts it this way: "When it was realized that a large number of channels could be made available over a single cable for the delivery not only of distant television stations but also of direct-to-home information and services, new cable companies sprang up over night. Municipalities began to be pressured by enterprising promoters competing for lucrative franchise agreements.

"Taking advantage of general ignorance about cable and offering the incentive of a guaranteed percentage of gross income as a franchise fee, cable promoters caught many a municipality off-guard."

As the potential of CATV has been realized by more and more public interest groups, cable television information centers have sprung up all over the country, determined to prevent commercial operators more interested in profit than public service from ripping off more communities than they already have.

But why all the hullabaloo? What is this great potential of CATV that is causing this mass organization? And what does it have to do with Columbia?

We've already mentioned the most obvious assets of cable TV to the community at present--more channels and better reception. But the idea of "more channels" should be examined a little further. As Ralph Lee Smith in his book The Wired Nation puts it: "Television is a colossal hog of the electronic frequencies. The elbowroom required by each channel is what makes the over-the-air very high frequency (VHF) TV spectrum the scarcest of our natural resources."

By taking TV signals out of the air and making use of additional frequencies available only through the cable's controlled transmission technology, experts believe that CATV can provide up to 80 channels at present, with the possibility of many more being added as the technology advances.

Additionally, in a CATV system, it is possible to "cablecast," or broadcast directly over the cable without the use of airwaves at all. This procedure is relatively cheap, meaning that a much more diversified use of television will be possible, because rates will be low enough to make television time accessible to groups and individuals without large resources of capital.

The concept of "public access" derives directly from the two facts already mentioned here---availability of channels and low cost. New FCC regulations require cable companies operating within the top 100 viewing markets to provide channels for public access, education, and governmental purposes---and other cable companies can be required to furnish these services if they are written into the company's local franchise. (Systems already in operation on March 31, 1972, have a five-year period in which to comply, unless significant expansion takes place.;

The public service potential of cable TV is enormous. Because of the wide availability of channels, the competition for the largest audiences possible--a situation which currently plagues over-the-air broadcast stations--can be eliminated. The advent of cable makes it economically feasible to program for small audiences with specific interests. Take for example these possible uses outlined in the United Church Of Christ publication:

"Cable, in addition to providing clear pictures and more stations, can:

1) Provide local news and information about what's going on in the town, the community, the neighborhood--even the block.

2) Make it possible for community organizations to conduct meetings in which cable viewers participate via the home screen. A cable system may be subdivided into smaller units such as political wards, school districts, or ethnic community areas. It is possible for cable systems to permit two-way communication, letting an individual at home express opinions on community issues by means of a signalling device on the television set. Ultimately, there will be providions for talkback.

3) Make it possible for you to 'sit in' regularly on public meetings such as the town council or board of education.

4) Make it possible for the board of education to distribute televised adult education courses into the home, or to teach children at home if they are physically unable to go to school. Community colleges could also offer course work.

5) Make it possible , at very low cost, for candidates for elected office at various levels of government to discuss issues of interest to their constitutents.

6) Provide 'public access'--the oppotunity for individuals and organizations to speak their minds on whatever they think important."

The positive aspects of this kind of public service programming are obvious. In New York, where several public access channels are already in use, local community groups with the assistance of public video organizations, are making their own videotapes with relatively inexpensive video equipment. These videotapes are broadcast over the public access channels on a "first-come, first'serve" basis, as required by FCC regulations. In California, several municipalities have required, through the use of their franchising power, that cable companies provide a certain amount of equipment for community use in this manner.

When viewed, the tapes produced by amateurs--members of the community with no television, or for that matter, photographic experience--are sometimes jumpy and out of focus, but they convey a powerful sense of reality which professional broadcast television often lacks.

As cable television begins to permeate the community, a number of auxiliary services may be available to cable subscribers. Some of the potential applications which have been discussed include the use of extra by electric, water, and gas companies to read meters electronically; use of the cable system by police departments to monitor the streets for traffic problems and criminal activity; a burglar and fire alarm system connected to your cable and hooked into police and fire departments; of extra channels by commercial enterprises to advertise merchandise, much like Sears uses catalogs, or by grocery stores to advertise specials. Cable TV's two-way capability, now required by the FCC in the top 100 viewing areas, can open up a whole new series of possibilities.

An exhibit at the 1968 Annual Convention of the National Cable Television Association "displayed a home communications center, in which the user, through appropriate switching circuits, could enter into two-way exchanges with local stores, could 'dial-a-play,' and could have at his fingertips the full information contained in vast libraries."

"This is no dream," says Ralph Lee Smith in The Wired Nation. "The cable could carry it all, and the technology is in existence or soon will be."

And despite the potential of CATV in the areas of public access, community involvement, and auxilary services, an even greater potential exists for cable television in the near future. By 1980, or shortly thereafter, prognosticators predict that the major population centers of the entire country will be connected by a network of cables and communications satellites. When cable connections reach that point, the possibilities for service literally mushroom. In theory, cable could eventually replace the present telephone system, providing all the advantages of the Bell System's new Picturephones, plus innumerable other services not available over the phone (But when you consider the sheer size of A T & T — 850,000 employees; $40 billion yearly gross — you can see that the Phone Company will probably be the last to fall.) By attaching a simple device similar to a news ticker, mail of all sorts could be sent over cable, at least partially solving the already growing crisis of the U.S. Postal System. — and not only mail, but telegrams, business information, newspapers, magazines— just about any kind of printed matter — could be transmitted rather than sent by more conventional methods, all within a few hours time.

All of the above assumes, of course, than some new and better technology will not come along and outstrip the cable. But despite that possibility, it is of utmost importance that state and local governments and public service organizations take steps to assure that the cable systems will not develop in such a way as to prevent the public interest from being served. Communications authorities are quick to point out many of the drawbacks of such a system. A two-way communications system within the home opens the possibility of "Big Brotherism," spying by government, business or private groups. And as the cable begins to be used for more and more services, all of which must be paid for in some manner, computer banks will no doubt begin to compile financial and personal information of citizens who use the cable. How can this information be safeguarded? Innumerable other problems might be mentioned--the police state-type dangers which arise from a police force equipped with spy cameras, for instance.

Protecting the public interest from possible cable abuses is obviously one of the reasons why Columbians and South Carolinians should begin to concern themselves with CATV, for the potential for abuse does not exist solely in the future.

Franchising cable television firms is an area where community concern must begin. As pointed out previously in the United Church of Christ statement, unscrupulous cable operators have already ripped off a number of towns and cities in the country. Although new FCC regulations passed on March 31, 1972 will hopefully eliminate some of these abuses, the FCC has left a good deal of the regulation up to local communities. And where local citizens don't choose to become involved, that often means local officials will make the decisions—officials who may tend to choose short-term gains over their responsibility to the community's best interests. For example, cable companies will often offer a lump sum payment or a percentage of gross receipts to the local government in return for the franchise. Obviously, this a way for the local government to accrue more revenue. But if the lump sum payment or gross percentage is too high, it will probably result in increased rates to subscribers, which would essentially be a tax. And the question also arises as to what will be done with the franchise percentage. Although the FCC recommends that local governments use the money to set up a regulatory agency to supervise cable operations, the local officials may choose to spend it elsewhere unless the citizenry becomes involved.

Deciding who will get the franchise is also a key issue. If the city decides to grant the franchise to the highest bidder, the mayor and council may not be giving enough consideration to the equally important service-package which the bidders are offering. And if the city allows the franchisee to write his own franchise in exchange for a lucrative offer...The problems go on and on.

Columbia is fortunate in two respects. First, the city is included in the FCC's list of the 100 top television viewing areas in the country and therefore comes under the FCC's most stringent rules.

Secondly, Columbia City Manager Gray Olive says the city has adopted a "wait and see attitude while a cable consultant prepares a franchise designed exclusively for Columbia." Olive estimates that the franchise will be ready for City Council inspection by October, and preseumably public hearings will be held at that time.

The public hearings will afford an opportunity for public participation in the preparation of the franchise. At this point, community groups should be organized sufficiently to assure that adequate controls and needed services are written into the franchise before it is granted.

Before a cable operator can be certified by the FCC, he must demonstrate that the franchise he has acquired has developed from a "public proceeding that affords due process and considers all qualified applicants." This portion of the FCC cable regulations also states that "public participation must be provided in the selection process to insure that the needs and desires of all segments of the community are carefully considered." (Qualified applicants can include non-profit organizations who wish to operate the c ommunity's cable system on a public service basis.)

Columbia's position on the FCC's "Top 100" may make it particularly important that local citizens become involved with the preparation of the franchise. Since Columbia is in fact Number 100 on the list, any significant increase in other viewing areas will place the city in a precarious situation. In order to insure that cable companies operating within the city are subject to the FCC's most stringent rules (which are actually relatively mild), these FCC rules should be written into the franchise and required regardless of the city's FCC rating. The FCC regulations require, among other things, a public access channel (s), a certain amount of local programming by the cable operator, a 15-year time limit on franchise agreements, a complaint procedure, and an assurance that the operator will provide service to all areas of the community and not just to the most lucrative neighborhoods.

Local over-the-air broadcast stations (WIS, WNOK, WOLO) are protected under the FCC regulations also. All local commercial and educational stations must be carried over the cable. And under the current FCC rules, cable operators are limited in the number of non-local TV signals which may be imported for use over the cable. The FCC regulations also prohibit the simultaneous showing of the same program on a distant channel that is being shown on a local channel, and they preculde carrying certain syndicated programs being shown on one of the distant channels that local stations have contracted for.

This very brief look at some of the facts surrounding cable necessarily glosses over much of the material relevant to the CATV issue . It is intended simply to underline the fact that the cable issues are important to the Columbia community---and to the state community. All of the statements applying to Columbia are equally applicable to the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson area which is ranked 46th in the nation by the FCC. In Charleston, which is not ranked in the top 100 viewing areas, the issue of local involvement becomes even more important, due to the lack of significant FCC regulation in the smaller markets.

The Cable Television Information Center, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 (202-872-8888) offers free information and services to groups interested in looking further into the cable television phenomenon.

Media: radio as usual in Columbia

by Ed Meadows

Now that WCOS-FM has scrapped its progressive rock format without waiting to see whether it would work, things are like they've always been on the local airwaves--mediocre at best, trashy the rest of the time. Columbia broadcasters are arch practicioners of the tired old money-making radio formulas that have kept commercial radio in this nation a "vast wasteland." The big cash crop remains Top 40 schlock, but there is also country music and the so-called "beautiful music" (the gutted, whiteface imitation of catchy Top 40 tunes as in a version of Honky Tonk Woman by the Lawrence Welk Orchestra.). Turn on your radio and you can almost hear the cash registers ringing behind the cosmic screech of back-to-back commercials.

Well, why not? Business is business, right? Not quite. When broadcasters look at radio as purely entertainment and a vehicle for unlimited profit, they ignore the spirit of the 1934 law which established the Federal Communications Commission. The federal law says that "the airwaves belong to the people." In theory at least, the federal government merely allows a holder of a broadcast license to use the airwaves to serve the needs of the people and make an honest profit doing so. And in theory, the FCC, when it grants broadcast licenses, is not in the business of bestowing million-dollar windfalls on the wealthy few who manage to become licensees.

That's the theory. But in practice...consider the words of maverick FCC Commissioner Nicholas Johnson: "We know that our government 'of the people, by the people and for the people' has long since vanished from the earth. We know that it has been very largely replaced by a government of the people, by the rich, for the corporations." Thus WCOS policy-maker Woody Windham can justify a format change by remarking that, "There's a lot of money out there and we're gonna get our share."

To compound the offense, money-grubbing broadcasters fail to take their medium very seriously. They forget that radio, like any other form of mass media, is as educational as it is entertaining. The Top 40 disc jockey, screaming out banalities with amphetamine-spiked abandon, is the quintessential schlockmeister of the suburban wastelands. Forget the problems, forget the real world, he says, Donny Osmond is climbing up the charts real fast with this one. Three Dog Night blasting in your ear, a cardboard McDonald's hamburger in your hand, life is complete. Anything else is un-American.

For those who love Top 40, or country or "beautiful music," let them have it. But what remedy is there for those who feel the need for something more? There is little reason to believe that the commercial broadcasters will ever have a change of heart and provide the community with alternatives. And there is even less reason to believe that the FCC will enforce its own charter and make those broadcasters responsive to all sections of the community. The FCC has never denied or failed to renew a broadcasting license because of a radio station's programming, either actual or intended.

So there is a void for those who enjoy progressive rock, blues, jazz, folk, and Latin music and those who want programs dealing with controversial problems in both the black and white communities. In other words, there is a void for young people, minorities and intellectuals in Columbia. This town can forget any pretensions of sophistication until the void is filled.

There are some alternatives. If you've got maybe $200,000, you can set up your own radio station, providing you can compete with the wealthy corporations that will likely outbid you for an available radio channel. On the other hand, a group of philanthropists could donate up to $100,000 in seed money for a non-commercial listener-supported radio station. But even the foremost listener-supported radio station in the U.S.--WBAI-FM in New York, faces a constant struggle to keep afloat financially. And 'BAI has to deal with steady government hassles from its controversial advocacy programming

Then there is public radio, fostered by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a government entity set up during the Johnson administration to develop the nation's non-commercial radio and television systems. Despite hassles from the Nixon administration, including the recent veto of an appropriations bill for CPB, the corporation has done a creditable job of increasing the number of public radio and television stations and providing TV programs raning from "Sesame Steeet," and "Black Journal" to taped telecasts of Jefferson Airplane at the old Fillmore East concert hall in New York. The CPB-produced radio programs are similar in quality to the more-familiar television offerings and they are provided to CPB-supported radio stations partaking in National Public Radio.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting could work for Columbia. And WUSC-FM, a backwater ten-watt non-commercial radio station owned by the University of South Carolina, can provide the opportunity, WUSC-FM is a shoestring operation broadcasting classical music nightly to an audience of unknown strength. But if the university took advantage of available federal aid from the CPB and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, WUSC-FM could be cheaply converted from ugly duckling to a first-rate public radio station.

Under a HEW Title I grant, the university would only have to spend about $10,000 to convert WUSC-FM from ten watts to a powerful 20,000 effective watts. The university would only need to provide an annual budget of around $37,000 for a professionally-staffed CPB station and that's about as much as two professors cost the school. It's cheap at the price.

The South Carolina ETV Commission has big plans for public radio, but the plans seem to be based more on the lust for expansion than any feeling that radio programming in Columbia and the state may be inadequate. Director of Educational Radio William D. Hayes says the ETV commission plans a network of three 100,000 watt stereo FM radio stations, the first to begin broadcasting in Greenville on September 3. Another station, planned to cover the Columbia area, is supposed to be on the air by late next year. A third station will cover the Charleston area.

"This is not a reaction to poor commercial programming," said Hayes, "but we have the buildings and television towers already and we felt we could expand by moving into radio." More revealing is his comment that, "We want to provide better programs but not so good that nobody will listen to them." He said there'll be no progressive rock on the stations and minority programming will be met by broadcasting the sound portion of the ETV program, "Job Man Caravan," a program designed to find job opportunities for minorities, specifically blacks.

On the other hand, Hayes said the radio network will offer National Public Radio programs, public affairs programs produced in Columbia and at Clemson, along with folk, jazz and classical music. The stations will also provide a special subchannel with programs for the blind and others who can't read.

Still, public radio financed by the S.C. state government and the Nixon administration, with with programs designed not to offend, seems hardly the answer. And in fact the planned S.C. public radio network apparently isn't meant to make up for poor commercial programming. It's just another quest for expansion of a government which has prospered under the porkbarrel largesse of Harry Dent and his boss President Nixon. Dent, the South Carolinian named by Nixon as a presidential aide, may have played a part with advisor Patrick Buchanan in the Nixon administration's efforts to politicize public radio and tv. Nixon, it is reported, thinks there are too many "liberal" tv and radio programs put out by those damn "liberals" at the NET studio in New York. Nixon has tried to break down the public radio and tv networks and he wants public broadcasting money spread thinly amoung local stations so the "liberal" network gets none.

If you're read this far, you probably see just how disappointing the prospects are for high-quality, sophisticated radio programming that fills the listening needs of cultural minorities. Ah well, neither the managers of Top 40 radio stations nor S.C. government officials have ever cared much for minorities. Love it or leave it, they always suggest. Southern smugness and provincialism give one a sense of futility. Maybe "leaving it" is the best idea of all.

—Head Shop ------- Jokes—

Chinese Lamps

Exotic Novelties

The Different Drummer

Only ADULT Store of it's Kind in Columbia
3630 Rosewood Dr.

----Toy Animals------

LEVI'S
BLUE DENIM OR CORDUROY
STRAIGHT LEG OR BELL
LOW CUT BELLS, KNIT TOPS, OR MOST ANYTHING.
NEW SHIPMENT OF PRINTED TANK TOPS, T-SHIRTS – $1.99.

Britches Brew
CORNER LADY & ASSEMBLY
CHARGE CARDS WELCOMED

Books Etc.!?&...
COME SEE
South Carolina Book Store
corner of Green and Main

GOLDEN OAK
PAY CASH & SAVE OR EASY TERMS
SALE
At Student Rates
★ Water Beds
★ Roll-a-ways
or ★ furniture
RENT
★ Refrigerators
(Dormatory or larger size)
★ furniture
1725 Taylor St. - Phone 254-5275
Columbia, S. C. 29201

Cinema

JUNIOR BONNER--A Sam Peckinpah western without the violence. Starts Sept. 22 at Palmetto Theatre.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE 5--Kurt Vonnegut's novel about space travel and fire-bombing fares well in George Roy Hill's film. Coming soon to the Palmetto.

LATE SHOWS--The Palmetto Theatre has a series of Friday and Saturday night late shows for the month of September. YELLOW SUBMARINE, Sept 1-2, brings back the Beatles for the umpteenth time. NO BLADE OF GRASS, Sept. 8-9, is a scary horror tale of the great ecological holocaust. Frightening and violent, but good. ALICE'S RESTAURANT Sept. 15-16 with Arlo Guthrie and Pat Quinn returns for another showing. IF, Sept. 22-23, is a fantasy about revolution and murder at a British boys' school. With Malcolm McDowell.

BRIAN'S SONG--James Caan and Billy Dee Williams continue at the Richland Mall.

M-A-S-H--with Elliott Gould, Sally Kellerman, and Donald Sutherland returns to the Richland Mall for another run. It's still a great flick. RECOMMENDED.

MELINDA--with Calvin Lockhart continues at Atlantic Twin I with BODY SHOP-DON'T JUST LAY THERE playing at II.

PRIME CUT with Lee Marvin and Gene Hackman continues at the Miracle. Sex and violence and drugs are involved in this nasty little film.

THE MAGNIFICENT 7 RIDE AGAIN with Lee Van Cleef is scheduled for the Miracle.

BLACULA, the most horrifying film of this decade, continues at the Carolina.

BONNIE'S KIDS--This probably rip-off is probably best avoided. Starts Sept. I at Plaza III.

MADE FOR EACH OTHER--with Joe Bologna and Renee Taylor is coming soon to the Fox.

THE GRADUATE with Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft returns to Jefferson Square. The laughs are a bit stilted, but Mike Nichols' direction and Bancroft's great performance are still there and enjoyable.

THE COWBOYS--John Wayne, Bruce Dern, and a dozen prepubescent cowboys learn some misguided, fascist "truths" about our heritage. Coming soon to Gamecock I.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF continues at Gamecock II. Avoid if you already have.

PATTON--with George C. Scott and Karl Malden returns to Gamecock II. Enjoy the fantastic direction and Francis Ford Coppula's dynamite script.

The Joyful Alternative

Books·Clothes·Headgear·Crafts

2009 GREEN ST., COLUMBIA, S.C.

ACLU is looking for people who want to change things.

Things like a social system based on racial and sexual inequality. A penal system based on retribution rather than rehabilitation. And an educational system based on students being seen but not heard.

The American Civil Liberties Union has been working to change these things for 52 years. Because there is one thing we don't want changed. The Freedom of the American citizen under the Bill of Rights.

You can help change things. Join the ACLU today.

Sponsoring Member _$100-$500 and up
Cooperating Member _____$50
Sustaining Member _____$25
Supporting Member _____$15
Basic Mr./Mrs. Membership ____$15
Basic Membership _____$10

Special memberships are available as follows:

Student $6 Limited Income $6 Life Membership $1,000

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Mr./Mrs.
Mrs.
Miss

Name

Address Apt.

City State Zip

ACLU of South Carolina
2016½ Green St.
Columbia, S.C. 29205

ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING A MORE ENJOYABLE CAMPUS LIFE. . .

PIZZA — BEER ATMOSPHERE

WE WELCOME YOUR PATRONAGE PROVIDED YOUR CONDUCT ON, AT, OR NEAR THE CLUB DOES NOT OFFEND THE MANAGEMENT, MEMBERS OR YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

Campus Club South

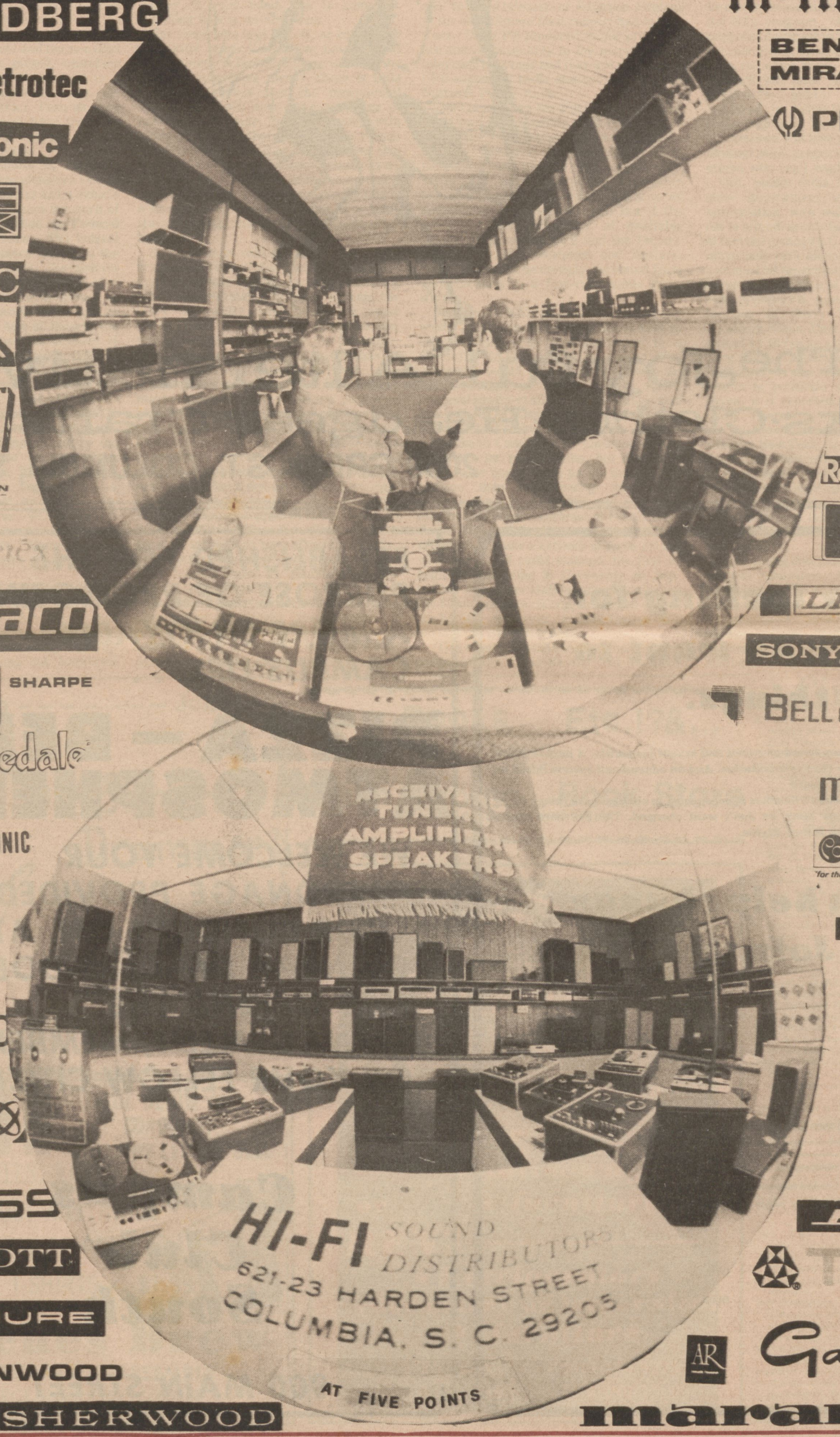
900 MAIN STREET

20 years ... audio specialists ... for your choice of the choice

DISCOUNTS ON ALL
AUDIO COMPONENTS and AUDIO SYSTEMS
(EXCEPT C.F.T. ITEMS)
Authorized Factory Warranty Service OUR SALES ONLY

Audi-Air
VIDEOTONE
TANDBERG
Metrotec
Panasonic
LUX
TEAC
Dual
Watts
BENJAMIN
LENCO
Ampeiex
dynaco
SHARPE
Wharfedale
SYMPHONIC
AKAI
ADC
empire
Sansui
KOSS
SCOTT
SHURE
KENWOOD
SHERWOOD

harman kardon
Wollensak 3M COMPANY
McIntosh
BENJAMIN
MIRACORD
PIONEER
KLH
B&O
NIKKO
PHILIPS
Rectilinear
MEMOREX
LLOYD'S
SONY SUPERSCOPE
BELL & HOWELL
maxell
PICKERING
"for those who can hear the difference"
REVOX
STANTON
Bozak
AKC
BOSE
TDK
AR
Garrard
marantz



HI-FI SOUND DISTRIBUTORS
621-23 HARDEN STREET
COLUMBIA, S. C. 29205
AT FIVE POINTS